



# Communication and Education

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- Summary of today's material
  - Wildland finds only in CA and OR, but risk across Pacific Northwest and Eastern forests
  - Important role of nursery industry
  - Regulations and BMPs play a role in reducing spread
- What you can do...



# Diagnosis and Sampling



# Sample referral and submission

- In some states, **only** the State or federal regulatory officials will be collecting the specimens.
- Contact your county extension agent or supervisor to find out who is authorized to collect suspect samples in your county.

# Sample referral criteria

- Only focus on plants likely to be infected by *Phytophthora ramorum*:
  - Affected plant is on host list and purchased since 2002, or is near a recently purchased host plant
  - Symptoms are consistent with *Phytophthora ramorum*
  - Most important species to watch are *Rhododendron* and *Camellia*
- Screening questions: [www.ncipm.org/sod](http://www.ncipm.org/sod)
- Symptom photos: [www.sudden oak death.org](http://www.sudden oak death.org)

# Communication

- Submit the suspect sample to:
  - County Extension Specialist/Farm Advisor
  - Master Gardener
  - Other state designated representative
- **Avoid alarming behavior. Don't jump to conclusions.**
  - Wait for lab result
  - Maintain confidentiality

# Collecting a sample

- Collect leaves that show various stages of symptom development.
- Take pictures of symptoms and environment.



# Packaging a sample

- Place sample on a dry paper towel. Double bag and seal the sample in zippable bags.
- If shipping, use a crush proof box with seams sealed completely with tape.
- Be sure to include the sample submission form required by your state.



# Delivering a sample

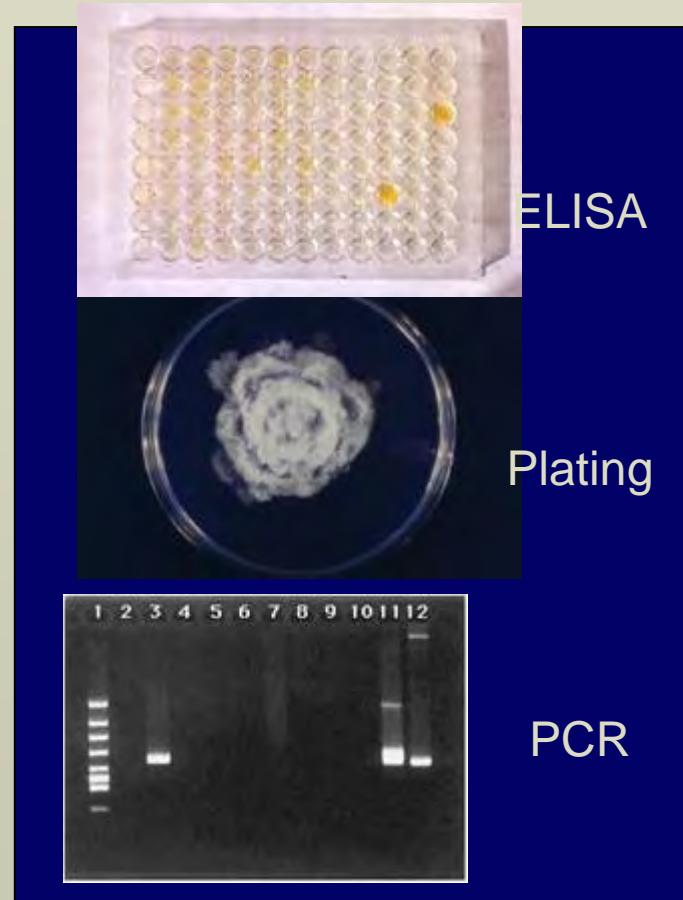
- Contact the sample recipient.
- Samples must be fresh and in good condition.
- Rapid delivery is critical –  
no Friday shipments.

# Sampling reminders

- The accuracy of a disease diagnosis can only be as good as the sample and information provided.
- Sample must be representative of symptoms and severity in the field and must contain the right material.
- Sanitation and chain of custody are important.

# Diagnostics: laboratory tests

- There are three detection methods:
  - Antibody test (ELISA)
  - Plating on selective media
  - DNA (PCR)
- Lab tests are relatively expensive and time consuming so good screening is essential to maximize resources.



# SUDDEN OAK DEATH

*Knocks 'em dead at*

## *The Distillery*

*opening bands TBA*



**Thursday, May 13, 10 PM**

**21+, \$4.00, 2107 L St., Sacramento**

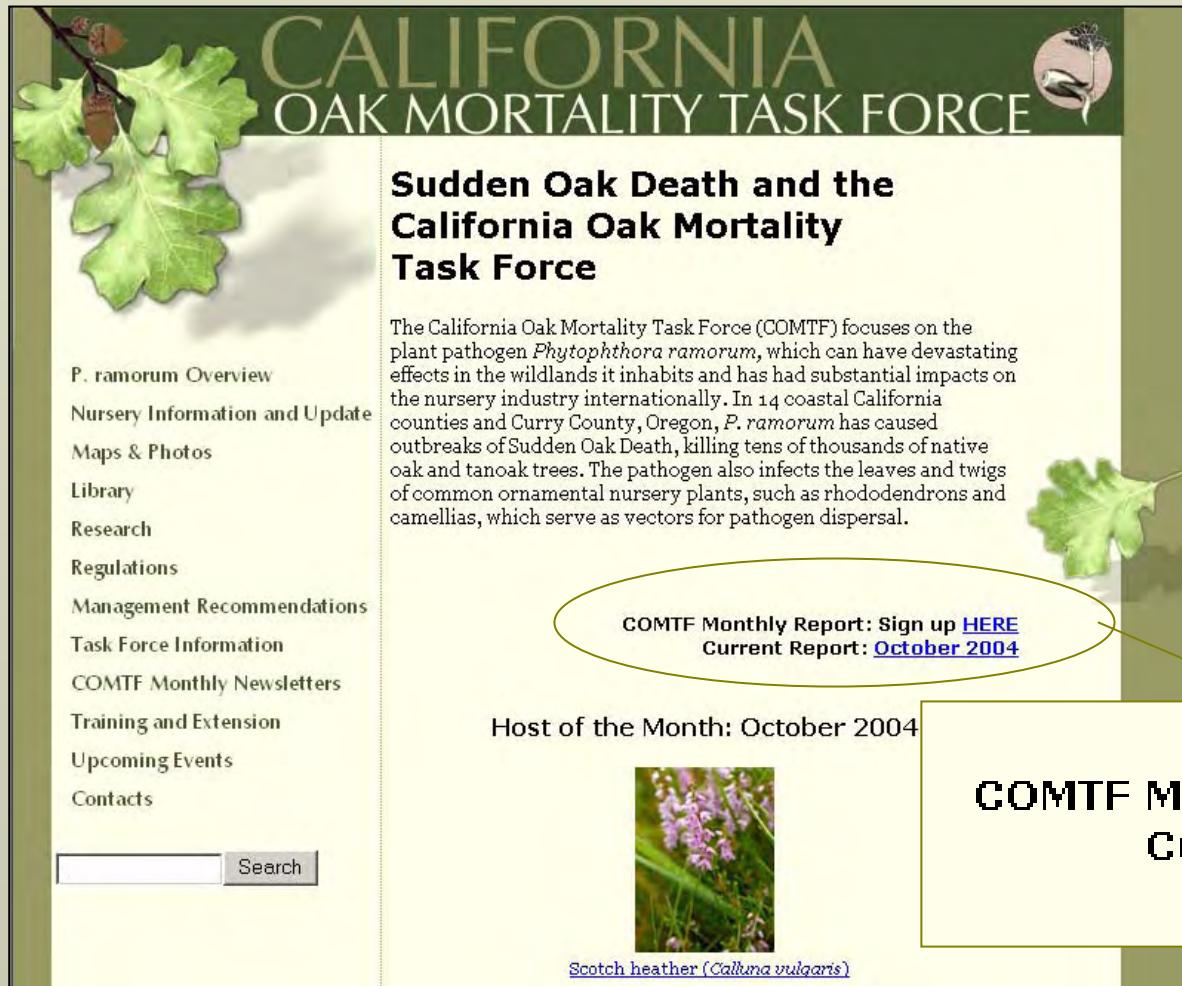
Education and Outreach

# California Oak Mortality Task Force

- Coordinates California's Sudden Oak Death program: Keeps media, legislators, and public up-to-date on current developments.
- 1000+ members from 80 public agencies, non-profits, universities, private and special interest groups...and runs on consensus.



# Website & Newsletter



The screenshot shows the homepage of the California Oak Mortality Task Force website. The header features a large green oak leaf on the left and a small illustration of a bird on the right. The title "CALIFORNIA OAK MORTALITY TASK FORCE" is prominently displayed in the center. A sidebar on the left contains links to "P. ramorum Overview", "Nursery Information and Update", "Maps & Photos", "Library", "Research", "Regulations", "Management Recommendations", "Task Force Information", "COMTF Monthly Newsletters", "Training and Extension", "Upcoming Events", and "Contacts". A search bar is at the bottom of the sidebar. The main content area has a white background. It features a section titled "Sudden Oak Death and the California Oak Mortality Task Force" with a detailed description of the pathogen and its impacts. Below this is a callout box with a yellow border containing text about the monthly report and a current report for October 2004. A photograph of Scotch heather is shown with the caption "Host of the Month: October 2004". A large callout box on the right side also contains the monthly report information.

**CALIFORNIA OAK MORTALITY TASK FORCE**

**Sudden Oak Death and the California Oak Mortality Task Force**

The California Oak Mortality Task Force (COMTF) focuses on the plant pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*, which can have devastating effects in the wildlands it inhabits and has had substantial impacts on the nursery industry internationally. In 14 coastal California counties and Curry County, Oregon, *P. ramorum* has caused outbreaks of Sudden Oak Death, killing tens of thousands of native oak and tanoak trees. The pathogen also infects the leaves and twigs of common ornamental nursery plants, such as rhododendrons and camellias, which serve as vectors for pathogen dispersal.

COMTF Monthly Report: Sign up [HERE](#)  
Current Report: [October 2004](#)

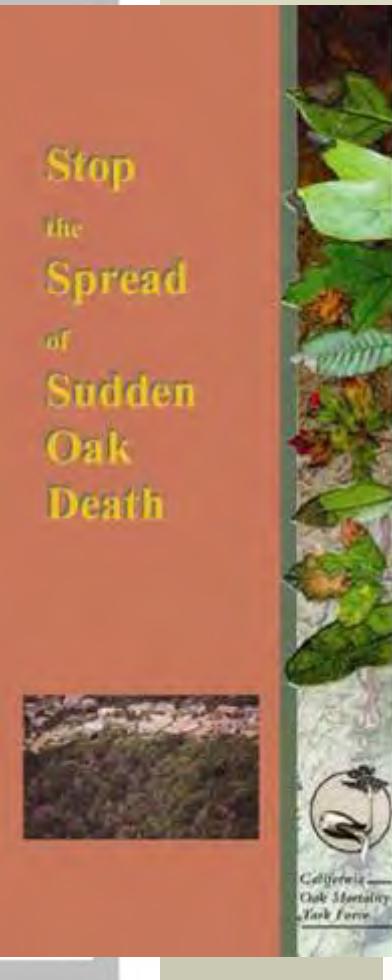
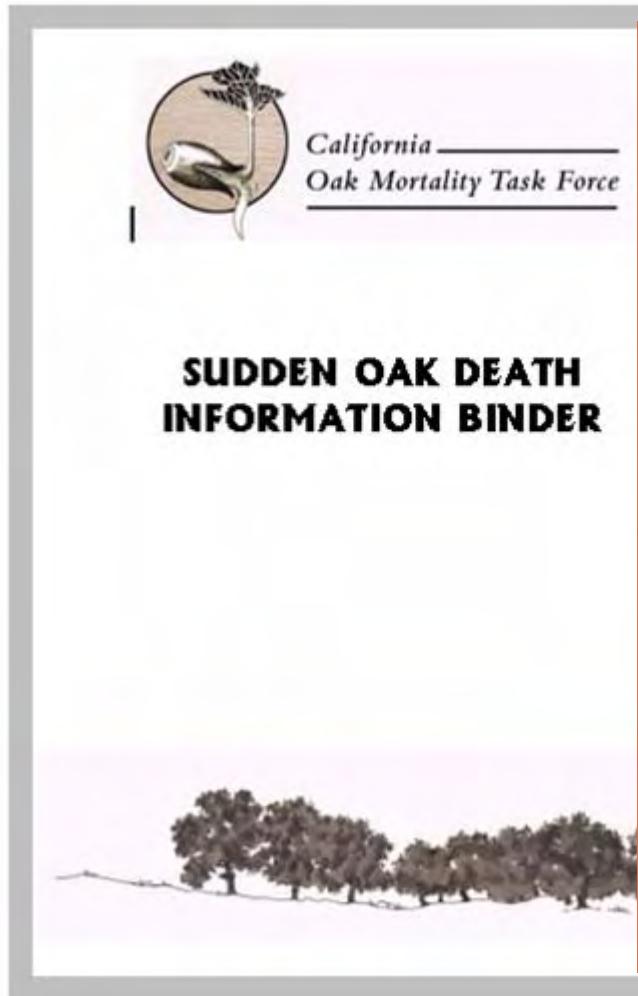
Host of the Month: October 2004

  
[Scotch heather \(\*Calluna vulgaris\*\)](#)

COMTF Monthly Report: Sign up [HERE](#)  
Current Report: [October 2004](#)

[www.sudden oak death.org](http://www.sudden oak death.org)

# Publications



**A guide for plant gatherers:  
Simple precautions to prevent the  
spread of Sudden Oak Death**

A relatively new plant disease known as Sudden Oak Death is threatening the coastal forests of California and Oregon. Currently found in 12 coastal counties from Monterey to Humboldt, the disease is caused by the pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum* (pronounced FEE-toff-thor-uh RA-MOR-uhm). To date, tens of thousands of tan oak and oak have been killed by this disease. In addition, more than 25 other native tree and shrub species are susceptible to the organism; most of these species suffer only minor damage, limited to leaf spots or twig dieback.

*Phytophthora ramorum* may be transported to new areas when infected plants or infested soil is collected and moved. Many commonly gathered plants may be carriers, such as California bay laurel (also called peppernwood or Oregon myrtle), California hazelnut, and rhododendron. While these plants are generally not killed, moving their infected leaves to new areas may cause new and deadly infections in oaks and tanakas. This guide provides simple, practical information on how to gather and use host plants of *Phytophthora ramorum* without unintentionally moving the organism from one area to another. These suggested practices may be useful to people that work, gather, or live in areas that are infested by this potentially devastating disease.

The following California counties have confirmed *Phytophthora ramorum* findings and are therefore under State and federal quarantine regulations: Alameda, Contra Costa, Humboldt, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Sonoma. The organism has also been found in Curry County, southwestern Oregon.

To gather plants without accidentally spreading this organism, it is important to understand its preferred environment. *Phytophthora ramorum* prefers wet or moist climates, cool temperatures, and living plants. High temperatures and dry conditions are unfavorable for its survival. Its spores can be found in soil and water as well as plant material. The risk of movement and spread of the organism is greatest in muddy areas and during rainy weather.

California and the federal government have quarantines in effect for *Phytophthora ramorum*. This document only provides recommendations to minimize the risk of spreading Sudden Oak Death while gathering plant material and does not address quarantine requirements. For more information on State and federal quarantines, go to [www.suddenoakdeath.org](http://www.suddenoakdeath.org) or call your County Agricultural Commissioner.

July 2008

California Oak Mortality Task Force | [www.suddenoakdeath.org](http://www.suddenoakdeath.org)

A map of California showing the locations of confirmed *Phytophthora ramorum* findings. The map highlights 12 coastal counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Humboldt, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Sonoma. A legend indicates that yellow dots represent 'Confirmed location of Phytophthora ramorum' and a blue dot represents 'County with confirmed cases of Phytophthora ramorum'.

# Training Sessions & Meetings



- Training sessions:  
March 8, 2006  
April 26, 2006
- Management meeting:  
March 21, 2006
- Research Symposium:  
Winter 2006-07

# For More Information

- APHIS:  
[www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/sod](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/sod)
- California Oak Mortality Task Force:  
[www.suddenooakdeath.org](http://www.suddenooakdeath.org)
- NCIPM:  
[www.ncipm.org/sod](http://www.ncipm.org/sod)



# Contact Information

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# Acknowledgments

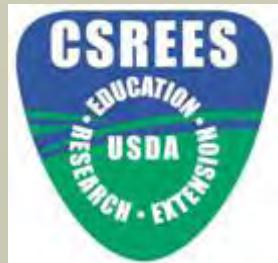
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Oregon  
State  
University



California \_\_\_\_\_  
Oak Mortality Task Force  
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National  
**IPM**  
Center

# Questions???

