HOW CAN SPREAD OF *PHYTOPHTHORA RAMORUM* (SUDDEN OAK DEATH) BE PREVENTED?

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Introduction

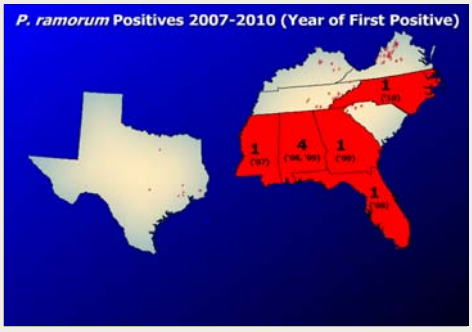
The Continental Dialogue, Address *Phytophthora ramorum* Initiative interdisciplinary team is working to prevent the impacts of *Phytophthora ramorum,* and other *Phytophthora* pathogens, to U.S. forests and nurseries. In February 2011, we convened a group of approximately 50 representatives from states and USDA (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Agricultural Research Service, Forest Service); private industry; academia; and non-governmental organizations for a workshop to review USDA APHIS and National Plant Board *P. ramorum* updates and the USDA Forest Service, Sudden Oak Death Framework, as well as initiatives from the nursery industry. This poster summarizes a few of the issues raised and next steps identified to reduce the potential for *P. ramorum* spread to new areas.

The workshop raised many important and difficult questions:

- If *P. ramorum* is found outside a nursery, what are the roles and responsibilities of federal officials, states and local governments?
- What is the likelihood of a *P. ramorum* positive waterway leading to a disease outbreak in the forest?
- What type of response is needed when *P. ramorum* is detected in a waterway in a new area?
- How can movement of *P. ramorum* via nursery run-off be prevented?
- How can reports of *P. ramorum* detections in nurseries be made available in a timely manner to a wider audience?
- How can we pull together to prevent new infestations of *P. ramorum* in nurseries and wildlands?

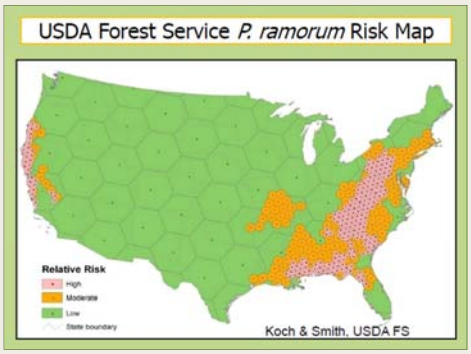
Photo: UC-Davis

Tanoaks, in Big Sur, CA, dying from infection by the Sudden Oak Death pathogen.



Maps: S. Oak, US Forest Service

Number of stream positives detections in the Southeastern US. All the positive streams are associated with detections of *P. ramorum* on nursery stock.



Higher risk area for *P. ramorum* establishment are shown in butterscotch or pink. Risk is based on host abundance, climate, proximity to nurseries and human population density.

Next steps

Some of the next steps and outcomes of the meeting include:
The USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection will involve partners to revise the draft Sudden Oak Death Framework.

The Forest Service and other stakeholders will assist APHIS, in reviewing the "*P. ramorum* Wildland Guidance" document.

The Nursery Industry group will evaluate the use and effectiveness of best management practices and critical control points in the nursery industry to inform a general set of best management practices. The findings could be used to refine a retail nursery protocol.

Education, outreach and relationship-building activities will continue.

Additional nursery and emergency response information has been added to the www.suddenoakdeath.org (California Oak Mortality Task Force) website.

The Continental Dialogue Initiative will continue to provide a platform for the ongoing stakeholder discussions on *P. ramorum* in forest environments.

We need your input and ideas to strengthen prevention programs. To join us, please see the Continental Dialogue, *P. ramorum* Initiative web pages or contact us directly.

The Continental Dialogue on Non-Native Forest Insects and Diseases,
www.continentalforestdialogue.org is a project of The Nature Conservancy,
with funding provided by The Grantham Foundation for the Protection of the Environment.