

RESEARCH. Since 2003, the WSU Puyallup Ornamental Plant Pathology Program has been conducting research on *Phytophthora ramorum* relating to host range, epidemiology, and potential control options. Some current research projects include:

- Infection of conifers by *P. ramorum*
- Fungicide evaluation
- Population genetics of *P. ramorum* in Washington State
- Sporulation potential on Pacific Northwest hosts
- Susceptibility and sporulation of *P. ramorum* on Rhododendron species and cultivars

EDUCATION. Early detection is key in reducing the risk of widespread outbreaks and protecting Washington's nursery, landscape, and forest industries from the potentially devastating effects of a *P. ramorum* outbreak.

With funding provided by the USDA Forest Service and National Plant Diagnostic Network, WSU has developed a *P. ramorum* education program based at WSU Puyallup, which develops educational materials and presents first detector workshops and research seminars relating to *P. ramorum* throughout Washington. First detector workshops train natural resource and horticultural professionals how to recognize symptoms potentially caused by *P. ramorum* in the urban and natural landscape and how to submit samples for early detection.



Sudden Oak Death Research Program

Protecting our natural resources and helping industry respond through research, education, and monitoring.

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Visit our website

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Sudden Oak Death Program



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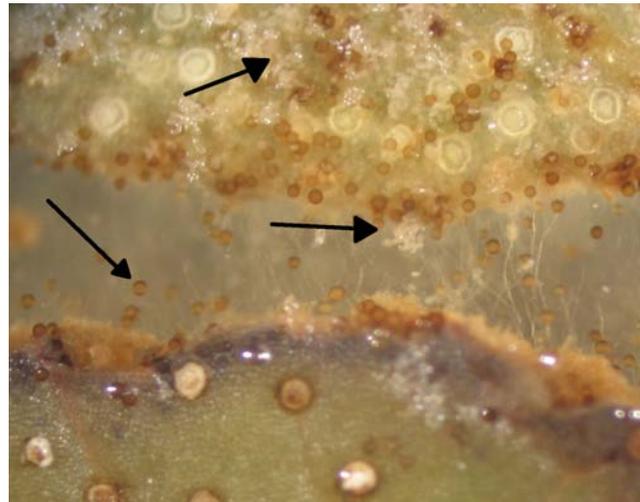
WHAT IS SUDDEN OAK DEATH? Sudden Oak Death (SOD) is a new plant disease killing oak and tanoak trees and infecting more than 45 additional plant species in North America and Europe. The disease is caused by the fungus-like pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*, but was given the name Sudden Oak Death because infected oak trees can change rapidly in appearance from green and healthy-looking to brown and dead or dying in a matter of weeks.



Viburnum plant infected with *P. ramorum*. Infections are often found where water accumulates on leaves.

SOD IN WASHINGTON. In June 2003, *P. ramorum* was confirmed for the first time in a Washington nursery. Since that time the Washington State Dept. of Agriculture (WSDA) has tested over 100,000 plants in hundreds of nurseries as part of the national SOD survey and trace forward surveys from production nurseries found to be infected with the pathogen. WSDA is placing a high priority on containing SOD and is doing everything possible to determine the extent of the problem and ways to eradicate or limit the spread of this disease.

THE SOD THREAT. Western Washington is a “high risk” area for diseases caused by *P. ramorum* because of favorable environmental conditions and the abundance of susceptible host plants in wildland and urban areas. At present, the disease has only been detected in or near nurseries in western Washington.



Spores of *P. ramorum* forming on Rhododendron foliage. These spores can spread the disease to other plants. Water is required for spore formation and dispersal.

While the potential ecological impacts of *P. ramorum* in Washington are unknown, the spread of this pathogen to plants in our forest or urban landscapes would trigger a series of quarantines affecting Washington’s horticulture and forestry products. The destruction of infected plant material in nurseries to eradicate *P. ramorum* and prevent its further spread has already caused millions of dollars in losses to the nursery industry in California, Washington, and Oregon. The recent detection of *P. ramorum* in a stream associated with an infested nursery illustrates the potential for this organism to spread from nurseries into Washington’s natural and urban landscape.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT SOD. At the WSU SOD web site <http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu/ppo/SOD.html> you can:

- Familiarize yourself with the symptoms of Sudden Oak Death. Find out what plants are affected, where it is found, how to prevent its establishment, and how to submit a potentially infected plant sample.
- Learn about the Sudden Oak Death federal quarantines, multi-state regulations, and best management practices in affected areas in order to prevent its further introduction to and spread in Washington State.
- Gain a broader understanding of Sudden Oak Death and read about the latest research.
- Find out about volunteer and educational opportunities.
- Sign up for the mailing list to receive quarterly electronic updates, upcoming seminars, and breaking news.



Students helping with a research project.