

What You Should Know About Sudden Oak Death

Q: What is “Sudden Oak Death”?

- Sudden Oak Death, *Phytophthora ramorum*, is a fungus-like disease that causes leaf spots, cankers and dieback in more than 12 families of plants.
- Also known as “ramorum leaf blight” or “ramorum dieback,” the disease has been found primarily in California and Oregon.
- It is of concern to land managers in the Eastern U.S., because at least two eastern oak species, northern pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) and northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*), are highly susceptible to the disease.

Q: What is the status of Sudden Oak Death in Maryland?

- **March 2004-** The California Department of Food and Agriculture confirmed that camellia, viburnum and lilac samples, collected at Monrovia Nursery in Azusa, California and Specialty Plants, Inc. in San Diego County, California were infected with *Phytophthora ramorum*. Plants were shipped from these nurseries to nurseries in 39 states, including Maryland.
- March 29, 2004 The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service began regulating the interstate movement of plants that can carry Sudden Oak Death, from all California nurseries.
- California nursery owners must have nursery stock inspected before it can be transported across state lines. This measure prohibits about 1,500 California nurseries from shipping susceptible plants until those nurseries can be inspected and found to be free of the pathogen.

Q: What should you know about Sudden Oak Death?

- Be aware of the symptoms. Some species - coast live oak, black oak, Shreve oak and tanoak - sustain lethal trunk infections, while other plants get less serious leaf and twig infections.
- Plants with leaf infections play a key role in spread of Sudden Oak Death, as the disease is moved through the air by wind blown rain.
- Anyone who suspects that the disease is present in a new location should contact their local county extension office for reporting information.
- The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) is urging Maryland residents who purchased camellias, viburnums or lilacs in 2003 or 2004 to call the Maryland Cooperative Extension Home and Garden Information Center 1-800 342-2507 for information on how to participate in a homeowner survey for Sudden Oak Death in Maryland.

Where to get more information about Sudden Oak Death:

Sudden Oak Death in Maryland, <http://www.mda.state.md.us/plant/sod2004.htm>

[North Central Pest Management Center Pest Alert](#)

[US Forest Service Sudden Oak Death Website](#)

Regulated and associated hosts of sudden oak death are located at the [comprehensive SOD site](#) from USDA APHIS

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/sod/>

Maryland Invasive Species Council Web

[http://www.mdinvasivesp.org/species/other/Sudden Oak Death.html](http://www.mdinvasivesp.org/species/other/Sudden_Oak_Death.html)

American Phytopathology Society's (APS) [Sudden Oak Death Symposium Archive](#)

National Ag Pest Information System (NAPIS) *P. Ramnus* page

<http://www.ceris.purdue.edu/napis/pests/sod/>

From California: the [California Oak Mortality Task Force](#) and the related [California Sudden Oak Death Monitoring](#) pages.

Call Maryland Cooperative Extension at 301-314-2805 or 301-405-7992

Prepared by: Sandra Sardanelli, Maryland IPM Program Coordinator

Reviewed by: Carol Holko, Entomologist, Maryland Department of Agriculture
Pamela B. King, Extension Agent

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