



California Oak Mortality Task Force

A CHRONOLOGY OF *PHYTOPHTHORA RAMORUM*, THE PATHOGEN KNOWN TO CAUSE SUDDEN OAK DEATH (SOD)

September 1, 2002

- 9/02 Governor Davis supports SOD research and response with a \$2 million commitment in 2002/03 State budget.
- 9/02 UC Researchers confirm Coast redwood and Douglas-fir are susceptible to *Phytophthora ramorum*.
- 8/02 Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF) includes Humboldt and Contra Costa in Zone of Infestation and approves Monterey SOD hazardous tree assessment, removal, and restoration plan.
- 7/02 Humboldt and Contra Costa Counties are confirmed to have *Phytophthora ramorum*.
- 6/02 Training on Basic Management and Recognition of SOD held for arborists in Marin County with UCCE.
- 6/02 BOF approves Santa Cruz County SOD hazardous tree assessment, removal, and restoration plan.
- 5/02 Two informational meetings held for resource professionals in Humboldt county with farm advisor. 175 attendees.
- 5/02 United Kingdom bans imports of plants and wood from parts of U.S. to prevent spread of SOD.
- 4/02 Poland's *Phytophthora ramorum* findings on rhododendron plants in nursery setting are reported to the U.S.
- 4/02 England confirms *Phytophthora ramorum* findings on *Viburnum tinus* in nursery setting.
- 4/02 The scope of infestation includes 15 known host species, 10 confirmed counties, and the following eight state parks: Austin Creek State Recreation Area, China Camp State Park, Jack London State Park, Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, Samuel P. Taylor State Park, Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, and Mt. Tamalpais State Park.
- 4/02 Second Basic Management of SOD on Forestlands training session is provided.
- 4/02 BOF approves the Marin County SOD hazardous tree assessment, removal, and restoration plan. This is the first county plan to have submitted a funding proposal for SOD tree removal and restoration.
- 3/02 First Basic Management of SOD on Forestlands training session is provided for official samplers and surveyors. Training includes sampling, recognition, survey, and mitigation measures.
- 3/02 Media reports that *Phytophthora ramorum* DNA has been detected on maple in Foresthill, Placer County (furthest inland finding of SOD). Unless samples are cultured, Placer County will not be classified as a regulated county.
- 2/02 Assemblypersons Nation and Migden introduce AB2251 to continue California's SOD program.
- 2/02 First of two public hearings is held in Petaluma on interim APHIS SOD regulations.
- 2/02 USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) releases interim federal regulations for SOD. These regulations will oversee interstate movement of host material.
- 1/02 Media reports that *Phytophthora ramorum* has been detected on redwood. Unless isolates are cultured from samples, redwood will not be classified as a host.
- 12/01 Senator Boxer announces \$400,000 in agricultural appropriations for SOD research.
- 11/01 Marin County Supervisor Cynthia Murray convenes the second SOD Summit.
- 11/01 A COMTF-wide meeting is held in Petaluma to focus primarily on new CDFA regulations.

- 11/01 *Phytophthora ramorum* confirmed on UC Berkeley campus.
- 10/01 China Camp Back Ranch Campground closes to remove and destroy about 80 hazardous trees. Park trails have another 70 potentially hazardous trees to remove.
- 10/01 Alameda and Solano Counties are added to the ZOI by the BOF after confirmation from CDFA that both counties have SOD and are now regulated counties.
- 10/01 California coffeeberry, Toyon, and California honeysuckle are confirmed as new hosts.
- 9/01 COMTF issues sampling guidelines for *Phytophthora ramorum*. CDFA defines and requires “official” samples for regulatory purposes.
- 9/01 The Legislature passes, and Governor Davis signs, AB 62 (Migden) authorizing funding and spending based on task force recommendations. Funds are allocated as follows: monitoring \$440,000; management \$1,796,000 – earmarked largely for affected counties; research \$480,000; education \$221,000; regulation \$420,000; and administration \$243,000.
- 8/01 South Korea imposes a quarantine on oak products from California.
- 8/01 Oregon identifies and confirms SOD in Curry County. Infected areas are quarantined and under regulation. Plans for eradication of host material begins.
- 7/01 Governor Davis and the Legislature provide \$3.586 million to address SOD in the 2001/02 budget.
- 6/01 Senator Boxer introduces a bill in the US Senate calling for \$70 million to address SOD. Congresswoman Woolsey introduces a similar bill in the House of Representatives.
- 5/01 The California Department of Food and Agriculture issues emergency regulations that require permits to be issued by an authorized agricultural official to move host plants or materials within or from infested areas.
- 5/01 Researcher Matteo Garbelotto develops a molecular diagnostic tool using polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to identify the presence of *Phytophthora ramorum*.
- 5/01 *Phytophthora ramorum* is recovered from madrone and bay laurel.
- 4/01 A COMTF-wide meeting is held in Felton to address SOD identification, sampling, and provide a research update.
- 4/01 The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF) passes a resolution declaring a "Zone of Infestation" (ZOI) for the counties of Marin, Monterey, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Sonoma. In July 2001, the zone is expanded to include Mendocino County after confirmation by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).
- 3/01 Canada issues SOD quarantine.
- 2/01 COMTF trains 125 professionals in hazard tree management.
- 2/01 Researchers recover *Phytophthora ramorum* from rainwater collected beneath coast live oak stem infections and from soil collected around diseased coast live oak.
- 2/01 Huckleberry and Shreve oak are confirmed as *Phytophthora ramorum* hosts.
- 1/01 *Phytophthora ramorum* is recovered from rhododendron plants in a Santa Cruz nursery.
- 1/01 Oregon institutes a quarantine that bans wood from California hosts that have not been kiln dried. This is an interim rule good for 90 days.
- 1/01 The Federal government appropriates \$3.5 million for SOD research and monitoring.
- 12/00 State legislators introduce bills to establish a statewide program to address SOD: SB31 (Chesbro); AB53 (Wiggins); AB62 (Migden); and ACR (Nation).
- 11/00 Marin County Supervisor Cynthia Murray convenes the first SOD Summit. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Undersecretary of Agriculture Jim Lyons pledges \$2.1 million in federal funding. Governor Davis pledges \$100,000 in state funding through the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF).
- 10/00 The first COMTF general member meeting is held in Vallejo. The theme for the meeting is “What

is SOD?” About 150 people, including press attend.

- 8/00 The California Oak Mortality Task Force (COMTF) is formed. It is a voluntary consensus group that brings together public agencies, non-profit organizations, and private interests to address SOD in California in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.
- 7/00 U.C. researchers identify the cause of SOD to be a previously unknown forest pathogen—*Phytophthora ramorum*.
- 1999 Researchers came together to look at the death of oaks and tanoaks in Marin. Emergency funding of \$60 – 70,000 is provided by U.C. and \$85,000 from the USDA Forest Service.
- 1995 Large numbers of tanoaks are observed to be dying in Mill Valley, Marin County. Reports also from Santa Cruz and Monterey.