

Sudden Oak Death



Fig. 1 Tree mortality caused by *Phytophthora ramorum*.



Fig. 2 Cities receiving *Camilla* spp. from California.



Fig. 3 Foliar leafspots on Rhododendron.



Fig. 4 Canker on tan oak.

Common Names: Sudden Oak Death

Scientific Name: *Phytophthora ramorum*

Description: *P. ramorum* affects a wide range of western plant host species including tanoak, coast live oak, California black oak, Shreve oak, big leaf maple, rhododendron, azalea, huckleberry, bay laurel, Douglas fir, redwood, California buckeye, arrowwood and others. **Laboratory tests have demonstrated that Minnesota native red oak species are highly susceptible to SOD.**

Symptoms are most severe on oak and tanoak and include cankers. Often a black or reddish ooze may exude from the canker. Dark colored tissue often exhibiting darker colored “lines” surrounding the canker may be present beneath the bark. Foliage turns from green to pale yellow to brown over a period of a few weeks. **Leaf spots are the primary foliar symptoms on other species. The spots have margins that are fuzzy or diffuse rather than sharply defined.** Confirmation of *P. ramorum* requires laboratory culturing of diseased plant tissue and chemical analysis.

History: Sudden oak death was first reported in 1995 in central coastal California. Prior to 2004, SOD was detected in 13 California counties and one county in Oregon. In March 2004, *P. ramorum* was confirmed in Los Angeles and San Diego counties widely separated from previous known infestations.

Green Industry Impact: In March 2004 two California nurseries shipped *Camillia* spp. plants nationwide. A limited number of plants were shipped to Minnesota. MDA is working with USDA APHIS to track and isolate these plants. A number of other southern California nurseries are also suspected to have SOD. Final laboratory analysis is pending. It is not known if any suspect plant material from these sites was shipped interstate or to Minnesota. **Several southern states are implementing exterior quarantines against California plant material. Minnesota is pursuing regulatory action pertaining to specific introductions at this time.**

What you can do: If you received ANY plant material from California nurseries you should contact your supplier to determine their regulatory status. If you plan on purchasing or receiving nursery stock contact your supplier to confirm the absence of California-grown material or be sure supplier provides you with official documentation that the California plants are free of SOD.

For More Information: Call the **Sudden Oak Death Hotline**, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. EST at 1-888-703-4457; or the Minnesota Department of Agriculture’s **Invasive Species Program** at 651-296-8328. MDA, USDA-APHIS, USDA-FS, U of M and DNR are working cooperatively to plan and coordinate surveys and laboratory testing as needed.

Links: www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/sod/
<http://ceris.purdue.edu/napis/pests/sod/index.html>
<http://www.suddenoakdeath.org/>