

## ODA drops sudden oak death quarantine of Columbia County as infestation determined to be limited

**August 18, 2004...**The Oregon Department of Agriculture has repealed its quarantine of all nurseries and compost production facilities in Columbia County after determining that sudden oak death detected in the county earlier this year has not spread beyond the initial site of discovery. With the lifting of the quarantine, ODA is declaring that the disease is not established in Columbia County.

ODA issued the quarantine in June after sampling and testing confirmed the presence of *Phytophthora ramorum*, the fungus that causes sudden oak death syndrome, in plants found in a Columbia County nursery as well as in infected potting media at the nursery. In addition, infected plants were found in a neighboring landscape planting. However, an extensive survey conducted by ODA determined the infestation was limited to two blocks of plants in the single nursery and that the plants in the neighboring landscape planting originated from those infected blocks. All plants in the infected blocks and the landscape planting were incinerated. Follow-up monitoring has not detected any additional infected plants.

Meanwhile, ODA continues to conduct a statewide inspection and certification program designed to protect Oregon from sudden oak death. All growers and dealers of plants susceptible to *P. ramorum* are being inspected, tested, and certified free of the disease before they are allowed to sell those plants. The program has come at the request of Oregon's nursery industry.

To date, 925 Oregon growers have been inspected, tested, and found free of the disease.

In addition, growers and dealers of plant material susceptible to *P. ramorum* must comply with ODA's notification rule that requires all recipients of tree and shrub nursery stock coming from any out-of-state source to notify the department for possible inspection of the plants. Landscapers and plant collectors are also included in the requirement, which is designed to locate introductions of sudden oak death before infected plants can reach consumers or other nurseries.

For more information, contact Gary McAninch at (503) 986-4785.