

Should I submit a landscape plant sample for *Phytophthora ramorum* testing? Answer the following questions...

(From USDA *Phytophthora ramorum* Educate to Detect program (PRED); adapted for the NPDN by Rachel McCarthy, NEPDN Training and Education Coordinator, Cornell University, February 2014)

1. Is the plant located in California?
 - a. Yes—go to California Oak Mortality Task Force’s Diagnostic Questionnaire at www.suddenoakdeath.org/diagnosis-and-management/disease-diagnosis/
 - b. No—go to 2
2. What plant or plants are affected?
 - a. The plant is a camellia, rhododendron, viburnum, pieris, kalmia or lilac (purchased since 2002) or other plant on the [USDA-APHIS Regulated Host List](#)¹—go to 5
 - b. The plant is near a camellia, rhododendron, viburnum, pieris, kalmia, lilac (purchased since 2002) or other plant on the [USDA-APHIS Regulated Host List](#)¹—go to 3
 - c. None of the above - unlikely to be *P. ramorum*. Do not submit sample.²
3. Is the plant known to be a host for *P. ramorum*? ([USDA-APHIS Regulated Host List](#)¹)
 - a. Yes—plant name appears on the list of hosts or associated hosts for *P. ramorum*, or plant belongs to the same genus as a listed host or associated host—go to 4
 - b. No—plant name does not appear on the list of hosts or associated hosts, nor does the plant belong to the same genus as a listed host or associated host—unlikely to be *P. ramorum*. Do not submit sample.²
4. Is the plant a member of the oak family (red oak, pin oak, beech, chestnut, chinquapin)?
 - a. Yes—go to 6
 - b. No—go to 5
5. Does the plant display foliar symptoms of leaf spots, defoliation or stem dieback similar to those shown on the **NPDN photo clue for ramorum blight, *Phytophthora ramorum***?
 - a. Yes—contact your state NPDN diagnostician.
 - b. No—unlikely to be *P. ramorum*. Do not submit sample.²
6. If the plant is a member of the oak family, does it display symptoms similar to those shown on the **NPDN photo clue for sudden oak death, *Phytophthora ramorum***?
 - a. Yes—contact your NPDN Diagnostic Lab for testing. Observe surrounding nursery plants and repeat questionnaire starting at question 1 if symptoms are present.
 - b. No—bleeding from the bark or bleeding is associated only with wounds or insect holes—unlikely to be *P. ramorum*. Do not submit sample.²

¹Regulated Host List can be found at <http://goo.gl/R33Ct> (url is case sensitive) or at www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/pram/downloads/pdf_files/usdaprlist.pdf

²Information on other plant diseases and disorders is available through the National Plant Diagnostic Network. Find your state diagnostic lab at www.npdn.org.

***NOTE: This questionnaire is NOT intended to be used to diagnose *Phytophthora ramorum* but to assist in identifying significant samples that should be submitted to an NPDN diagnostic laboratory for diagnosis. Use in conjunction with the NPDN *Phytophthora ramorum* photo clues on sudden oak death and ramorum blight. Find more NPDN diagnostic photo clues at www.firstdetector.org.**

Collecting, Packaging and Shipping Samples for Suspect *P. ramorum*

Sample submission guidelines by Gail Ruhl, Purdue University Plant and Pest Diagnostic Laboratory

- Contact your NPDN diagnostic lab ahead of time to tell them you are sending or delivering a suspect sample.
- Collect leaves that show various stages of symptom development. If possible take pictures of symptoms and the location.
- Place sample on a paper towel—**do not wet the towel**. Double bag and seal the sample in zipable bags.
- If shipping, use a crush proof box with seams sealed completely with tape and be sure to include your state NPDN lab's sample submission form (to find your state NPDN diagnostic lab visit www.npdn.org). Ship overnight. Do not ship on Friday or it may sit in unfavorable conditions over the weekend before delivery.
- If you are delivering a sample, rapid delivery and cool temperatures are critical so that the sample will arrive in good condition.
- Contact your state NPDN diagnostician with any sample submission questions.
- **Remember the NPDN Chain of Communication—do not discuss suspect samples until you get a confirmation back from the lab!**

