

Grower Assisted Inspection Program Frequently Asked Questions

Does a nursery need to be *Phytophthora* free to be in the program?

No, there are many species of *Phytophthora* in the environment. A goal of the program is to reduce the overall amount of *Phytophthora* in the nursery industry.

What are the benefits to participating in the GAIP?

The GAIP is a systems approach method to prevent *Phytophthoras* in the Oregon nursery industry. By applying Best Cultural Practices (BCPs) plants are less likely to become infected with disease. Nurseries will regain quality plants with lower input for top quality plants.

Growers and staff members will be more knowledgeable about *Phytophthoras*. This will aid with disease prevention, and any problems a nursery may have could be found quicker.

Besides *Phytophthoras*, other disease and insect problems may decrease as well.

If *Phytophthora ramorum* is found nurseries may also be less likely to suffer regulatory consequences. All regulations for the USDA Confirmed Nursery Protocol will still be in place.

If a nursery does not meet the requirements targeting the Critical Control Points (Plant Buy-ins, Water Management, Used Containers, and Soil/Media) is a nursery still eligible for participation in the GAIP?

Yes, a provisional compliance will be written into the Mitigation Manual. The provision will require a date of expected completion. In the event the provision is not completed by said date, an extension will be granted as long as the Oregon Department of Agriculture GAIP auditor has been notified.

If a nursery tests positive for *Phytophthora ramorum* will they be kicked out of the program?

No, the nursery would still eligible for participation in the program.

How often does the Mitigation Manual need to be updated?

Participation in the GAIP requires the manual to be revised as any change occurs. Keep all original paperwork at the nursery and send a copy of the page(s) with a brief description of change(s) to:

Oregon Department of Agriculture
Plant Division
Attention: GAIP Auditor
635 Capitol St. NE
Salem, OR 97301-2532 USA

or email changes to:

mlujan@oda.state.or.us

Does trace back/forward information for plant shipping/receiving need to be included in the Mitigation Manual?

This is not necessary. This information is already required for any nurseries shipping Host and Associated Host plants (HAP) out of state. Each nursery must sign a federal compliance agreement with the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the USDA. This agreement requires nurseries to keep these records. Nurseries must be able to supply the records to the USDA within 10 days of a *Phytophthora ramorum* positive.

Are other states familiar with GAIP?

Information about the program has been passed along.

Do plants need to be quarantined if they are brought in from Oregon nurseries?

Plant quarantines are not required for the GAIP but it is a BCP that some nurseries may choose to follow. If HAP is purchased from a non-certified nursery the plant material will need to be held until the nurseries ODA inspector can inspect the plant material.

How should plant material be handled that comes from other locations, or contract growers?

Plant material from these locations would be treated the same as other incoming plant material, and listed under the CCP for plant buy-ins.

Does the potting soil/media need to be stored on a concrete pad?

A concrete pad is not required, but it is the best way to store soil/media. If the soil/media is not stored on a non-porous surface, soil tests must be conducted a minimum of 4x/year and documented as a CCP.

Should plastic be used under a media pile if a nursery does not have a concrete pad?

This is not necessary. If plastic is used it may cause more problems by tearing, and water pooling. As long as the nursery conducts the soil testing requirements, they will remain in compliance with the program.

Do nurseries need to approach their potting media/soil suppliers about the cleanliness of the potting media/soil?

This is not required for the program. Some soil/media suppliers currently test their material for pathogens. Nurseries may contact their media/soil supplier and ask if they conduct any testing. The company may be able to provide these testing records to the nursery.

What requirements are there for reuse of compost on HAP?

If a nursery chooses to compost old plant material, they **must** ensure that all procedures have been followed correctly. Documentation of the required temperature and time will need to be included for the soil/media CCP. It is recommended leave the "Terrible Two" (*Rhododendron* and *Camellia*) out of the compost pile. If possible, it is best to leave all HAP out of the compost pile.

What are the requirements for Water Management?

Water sources such as recycling ponds, rivers, lakes, or reservoirs must be chemically treated, or tested for the presence of *Phytophthora*.

If possible testing should be conducted once a month. The GAIP will require that water testing be conducted a minimum of 4x/year and documented as a CCP.

Do I need to test my water if it comes from a well or municipal source?

No. Testing would only need to be conducted if the water is recaptured in a recycling pond.

Is it a requirement to sanitize used containers?

The use of recycled containers will need to be addressed and documented under the Soil/Media CCP in the Mitigation Manual. Research has shown that the risk factor involved when reusing un-sanitized containers is very high. Containers need to be cleaned of all media/debris and properly sanitized. The containers may also be pasteurized as long as the correct heat and time requirements have been met.

If a nursery does not sanitize used containers, they should not be used on HAP material.

Is there any potting media not susceptible to *Phytophthora ramorum*?

The soil/media itself is not susceptible it becomes contaminated.

Is there a recommended frequency for self-inspections?

At least once a month is suggested. There will be many different factors to look at such as nursery production practices, plant species, and time of the year to determine a schedule.

Is Zero-tol effective for *Phytophthora ramorum*?

Zero-tol is great for sanitation purposes but *Phytophthora* is not listed on the label. The OSU online course has a list of chemicals under:

Module 2, Chemical Control

<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/phytophthora>

What kind of barriers can be used inside of greenhouses?

A greenhouse covered with poly is adequate enough to separate each house from one another. If a nursery wants barriers inside of a greenhouse, a piece of poly can be used.

The size of the plastic will vary depending on how tall the plants are in the house. It needs to be tall enough to prevent any splashing over the top to the other side. Pay attention to the ground area to ensure the water drains appropriately.

Non-host plant material may also be used as a barrier. The barrier should be a minimum of 2 meters (6.56 ft).

If nurseries have the ability to conduct in-house pathogen testing, are there funds to help with the cost of lab supplies (Petri dishes, etc.)?

No, these costs would be up to the nursery.

If an ELISA test is positive for *Phytophthora*, who covers the additional costs for lab testing?

The nursery would take care of these costs.