BACKGROUND

Sudden Oak Death (SOD), caused by the non-native pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*, kills highly susceptible tree species such as tanoak and California black oak by causing lesions on the main stem.

It also causes leaf blight or shoot dieback on a number of other hosts including rhododendron, evergreen huckleberry, Douglas-fir, grand fir, and Oregon myrtle. In Oregon forests these hosts are only infected when growing very near infected tanoaks. *P. ramorum* spreads during rainy periods when spores produced on infected leaves or twigs are released into the air and are either washed downward or transported in air currents. Maximum distance of natural spread appears to be 3-4 miles per year. The pathogen can survive for months or years in soil or plant parts. The disease also can be spread by humans transporting infected plants or infested soil.

INITIAL SOD ERADICATION IN OREGON

When first discovered, the objective of Oregon’s SOD program on forestland was eradication. Eradication treatment of an infested site consists of cutting, piling and burning all infected plant material and nearby host plant material within a specified radius (aka treatment buffer) surrounding infected plants. Monitoring studies have shown that treatment within a 300 foot buffer conducted promptly following detection can successfully eliminate the pathogen from the site and slow spread.
**QUARANTINE REGULATIONS**

Spread of *P. ramorum* on state, private, and federal lands is managed by the designation of a SOD quarantine area under the authorities of the Oregon Department of Agriculture (Figure 3, ORS 603-052-1230). The quarantine requires infested sites to undergo eradication treatment, prohibits the movement of infected material outside of the quarantine area, specifies the best practices to apply when moving non-bole host plant material from infested sites and sets forth requirements for disease free certification when moving uninfected host material to areas outside the quarantine. In 2012, the program designated a Generally Infested Area where no treatment is required. The quarantine area expanded seven times since 2001. In 2015, the quarantine area was expanded to 515-square miles. Quarantine boundaries are subject to change. Please visit ODA’s website for current boundaries (www.oregon.gov/oda).

**CURRENT SLOW THE SPREAD PROGRAM**

Early detection is critical to the current slow the spread program. The program uses a three-pronged approach of aerial detection, water sampling, and ground-based surveys. Oregon and our federal partners continue to slow spread by SOD by cutting and burning the infected trees and surrounding area. The program places higher priorities on treatments on outlying new sites to provide the greatest return on investment.

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**References & further reading:**


California Oak Mortality Task Force: http://www.suddenoakdeath.org/

OAR 603-052-1230 http://arweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/oars_600/oar_603/603_052.html

**More information:**

Oregon Dept. of Forestry
Forest Health Unit
2600 State St. Bldg. D, Salem, OR 97310, 503-945-7200
http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/ForestBenefits/Pages/ForestHealth.aspx

Current Map of SOD Quarantine in OR:
http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/shared/Documents/Publications/NurseryChristmasTree/CurryCountySODquarantine.jpg