

Sudden Oak Death ***Frequently Asked Questions***

USDA Host List - http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/pramorom/pdf_files/usdaprlist.pdf

What is Sudden Oak Death?

Sudden Oak Death (SOD) is a serious fungal disease that affects not only oaks but other plants including azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias and maples. At least 40 different plant species can act as hosts for the fungus. Although it does not kill most of the species, scientists say it is unprecedented to have a pathogen spread across so many native plant species so quickly. No symptoms of the pathogen have yet been detected on the East Coast. This disease is not harmful to humans or animals.

Is this disease harmful to humans or animals?

No. Sudden Oak Death is not harmful to humans or animals.

Where did it come from?

SOD, formally known as *Phytophthora ramorum* appeared first in Europe in 1993 on nursery-grown viburnums and rhododendrons, and then in 1995 was found to be the cause of dramatic oak and tanoak death in the San Francisco Bay area of California, killing tens of thousands of oak trees along the California coastline. It has also caused plant damage in more than a dozen counties in California, along with a few localized outbreaks in Oregon, Washington, and Canada.

What does it look like?

Symptoms on the foliage look like leaf scorch or sunburn. The lesions are brown with a bulls eye effect with dark brown centers and lighter edges. The edges of the lesions are diffuse or fuzzy. In older infections, the leaf lesions can progress down the leaf petiole into the stems causing leaf-drop, stem lesions, and dieback. To view pictures of the symptoms and for additional information, please visit the Department's Web site at:

www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/enpp/pathology/sod-up.html

How is it spread?

The disease is presumably wind blown and could conceivably be moved on infected / exposed plants and associated growing media, in soil and debris attached to equipment, clothing, etc., and in runoff water.

What should I do if I think my tree or plant has SOD?

Please contact your local County Extension office (contact information available on UF/IFAS Web site at <http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/>) for further instructions or sample submission instructions.

More foliar symptoms of *P. ramorum* on rhododendron (Fig. 1) and camellia (Fig. 2).
Photographs - Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, UK



Fig. 1



Fig. 2