



Oregon Department of Agriculture



GAIP News

Grower Assisted Inspection Program

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Audits

The first GAIP audits have been going very well. After going through the facility review nurseries are familiar with the auditing procedure and what needs to be prepared.

Observing each nurseries mitigation procedures and how they have been incorporated into daily work schedules is great to see.

Nurseries who have not had the audit and federal order sampling conducted yet should expect to be contacted in the upcoming weeks. Keep up all the good work and please contact me with any questions!

Melissa Lujan

GAIP Poster Presentations

A preliminary overview of the GAIP will be presented at two conferences the next few months.

A poster will be displayed containing information from the

Phytophthora ramorum federal order survey, nursery size, and type of growing facility. These results will also be used in the future to evaluate the effectiveness of best cultural practices on preventing the introduction and spread of *Phytophthoras* in Oregon nurseries.

Nancy Osterbauer the Plant Health Program Manager (Commodity Inspection Division) will present the first poster at the Fourth Sudden Oak Death Science Symposium in Santa Cruz, California June 15-18. This conference is held biennially to bring people together from around the world to share new findings, ongoing research and progress with *P. 115ramorum*.

Gary McAninch the Nursery & Christmas Tree Program Supervisor will attend the second conference in Dearborn, Michigan July 11-15. He will present the poster as part of the Third Annual Conservation Innovation Grants Showcase (CIG). This showcase is held in conjunction with the annual international conference of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

The GAIP received funding from the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) through a CIG in 2007. These grants enable public and private organizations to conduct research on agricultural resources focusing on environmental conservation and protection.



How Are Federal Order Survey Samples Processed? Part 1 of 2

Questions have come up recently about what happens to the plant samples from the federal order survey after they leave the nursery.

The collection and processing of plant samples is a multi-step process that involves many staff members from the ODA's Plant and Commodity Inspection divisions.

The first step involves the field technicians who gather plant samples expressing *Phytophthora* symptoms. The samples are carefully collected under strict sanitation protocols including sanitization of gloves between each sample. The technician's initials, nursery license number, genus and species (if available), date, diagnostic request, and location in the nursery are documented for each sample. Once completed the samples are transported to the ODA. The information from each sample is entered into a database by the *P. ramorum* data entry specialist Kim Lawson and then delivered to the lab.

The samples are prepared and tested using an USDA-approved *Phytophthora-specific* ELISA kit. Any samples that test positive for *P. ramorum* DNA are then cultured onto a selective growing medium for *Phytophthora* species. Any samples that test positive for *P. ramorum* DNA are also sent to the USDA APHIS PPQ National Identification Services laboratory for official confirmation of the diagnosis.

It takes 2- weeks from the date of sample collection until all laboratory testing is done. Positive samples, however, may take longer because official confirmation is needed. The Plant Health laboratory processes hundreds of samples a week and does a great job at completing this task as quickly as the required protocols allow.

Scouting and Weather

Increasing the frequency of disease scouting at your nursery a good idea because of the amount of rainfall in the last month. This extra precaution may save you some trouble in the long run by reducing disease spread and giving you the opportunity to take proper actions quicker.

Oregon State University has an email service on their Pacific Northwest Nursery IPM site that sends out pest alerts keeping Oregon nursery growers current with what to look out for on your nursery stock. Check it out at:

<http://oregonstate.edu/dept/nurspest/index.htm>