

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Announcing a FREE *Phytophthora ramorum* (Sudden Oak Death) Prevention Workshop for Grower Nurseries in the San Francisco Bay Area**

***Developing a Best Management Practices Program for your Nursery***  
A 2-hour workshop on preventive practices and systems approaches to avoid introduction of *P. ramorum* to nurseries and spread of the disease to customers

The California Department of Food and Agriculture has teamed up with the California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers to facilitate the development of a voluntary program for California nurseries and train nursery staff.

Across the country there is an increased focus on “clean stock programs.” Some states are pressuring the USDA to develop a mandatory Best Management Practices (BMP) program for nurseries and work groups have already been meeting under the guidance of USDA/APHIS to develop such a program. It is important for California to take a lead role in the development of an easy-to-implement, voluntary BMP program. Each program is designed with the help of growers and documents the steps the nursery agrees to take to insure the production of clean, healthy nursery stock free of *P. ramorum* and other diseases.

The workshop is designed to introduce the topic to nursery owners and staff, and helps guide them to develop their own, individualized BMP manual for preventing the entry and spread of *P. ramorum*.

**The first workshop for Northern California growers and nurseries is being offered on July 27, 2010 at:**

**Dominican University of California  
50 Acacia Ave, Science Center  
San Rafael, CA  
94901**

Participants should bring their copy of “Nursery Industry Best Management Practices for *Phytophthora ramorum*” to the workshop, and a limited supply of extra manuals will be available for those who do not already have a copy. Following a presentation on the program and its benefits to nurseries, attendees will be guided through the development of their own, individual program and methods of documentation of their nursery practices.

There is no cost for the workshop, which is funded through the California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers by a USDA/FAS TASC grant.

**To register and to obtain more information about the workshop, please contact Kathy Kosta, Primary State Plant Pathologist, California Department of Food and Agriculture by email at [kkosta@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:kkosta@cdfa.ca.gov) or by phone at 916-653-1440.**