

Ramorum Blight

Phytophthora ramorum

First introduced to California in 1995, the Ramorum Blight is commonly referred to as Sudden Oak Death. Infecting oaks and laurels, this fungal pathogen thrives in moist and mild environments and is **not yet present in Rhode Island**.



Sabine Werres, BBA, Germany
Cankers on Rhododendron twig moving into leaf



Oregon Department of Agriculture
Leaf lesions on Viburnum



Oregon Department of Agriculture
Shoot dieback on Pieris



Oregon Department of Agriculture
Leaf lesions on Camellia



Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service,
www.invasive.org
Bleeding Canker



Garbelotto Lab,
University of California- Berkley
Black zone lines under bark

Symptoms:

Sudden Oak Death can infect the bark of multiple species of trees as well as foliage and small branches.

Symptoms that may be visible in infected trunks:

- Ooze bleeding from cankers, black or reddish in color.
- Black zone lines surrounding necrotic tissue under the bark.
- Tree mortality and crown die back. Brown leaves may remain on trees for months.

Symptoms that may be visible in Rhododendron:

- Leaf spots with a diffuse edge.
- Brown to black cankers on twigs.

Symptoms that may be visible in Viburnum:

- Stem shows discoloration. Infection begins at the base of the stem.
- Wilting of entire plant.
- Leaf lesions and shoot dieback.

Symptoms that may be visible in Pieris:

- Necrotic leaf spots and shoot dieback.

Symptoms that may be visible in Camellia:

- Leaf lesions at leaf tip or margin with diffuse edges.

Similar Disease Symptoms:

Oak Wilt, Oak Decline and Red Oak Borer Damage are Eastern Oak diseases with similar symptoms of Sudden Oak Death. The [USDA Pest Alert](#) describes these diseases.

Information Sources

[Sudden Oak Death – Phytophthora ramorum](#). 25 February 2008. 17 February 2009 <<http://www.massnrc.org/pests/pestFAQsheets/suddenoakdeath.html>>.

[Sudden Oak Death : Ramorum Blgt, Phytophthora ramorum](#). 17 February 2009 <<http://pest.ceris.purdue.edu/searchpest.php?selectName=FGHEPWN>>.

Image Sources

[Sudden Oak Death – Phytophthora ramorum](#). 25 February 2008. 17 February 2009 <<http://www.massnrc.org/pests/pestFAQsheets/suddenoakdeath.html>>.