

Patricia D. Hastings

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Cc: "Carl Schulze" <carl.schulze@ag.state.nj.us>
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2007 3:55 PM
Subject: Amending Domestic Quarantine of *P. ramorum*: Interim Final Rule and request for comments on the quarantine and regulations

Memorandum from Richard L. Dunkle, Deputy Administrator of the USDA Plant Protection and Quarantine announcing an **Interim Final Rule and request for comments on the Quarantine and Regulations related to *P. ramorum***. Courtesy of Carl P. Schulze, Jr., Director of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture Division of Plant Industry (phone: 609-292-5441/ www.state.nj.us/agriculture/divisions/pi/). Notification of Interim Rule on the Quarantine and Regulations *Phytophthora Ramorum* published in the Federal Register on February 27, 2007 by the DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. 7 CFR Part 301. [Docket No. 01-054-3] RIN 0579-AB82.

SUBJECT: *Phytophthora ramorum* Interim Rule

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The purpose of this SPRO memorandum is to provide notification that On February 27, 2007, APHIS published an Interim Rule in the *Federal Register*, effective upon publication, amending the *P. ramorum* domestic quarantine. This Interim Rule strengthens the ability of the *P. ramorum* program to detect, contain, and eradicate this destructive plant disease by codifying several new provisions. The Interim Rule **enhances sampling requirements for *P. ramorum* symptomatic plants**. It **updates the APHIS list of regulated hosts and plants associated with *P. ramorum*, as well as quarantined areas where natural infestations of *P. ramorum* occur**. It also **expands the definition of restricted articles** to include *P. ramorum*-host bark chips, mulch, and forest stock located or grown in quarantined areas. Furthermore, the Interim Rule **expands the definition of regulated articles** to include various *P. ramorum*-host nursery stock, including decorative trees without roots, unprocessed wood and wood products (i.e., firewood, logs, and lumber), and plant products (i.e., wreaths, garlands, and greenery).

A link to a copy of the Interim Rule is available on APHIS' *P. ramorum* Web site. The address is http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/phytophthora_ram/index.shtml . APHIS will be accepting comments on the Interim Rule during the associated public comment period, which closes on April 30, 2007. Comments can be submitted or viewed electronically by going to www.epa.gov/feddoCKET. Once you have reached this page, click on the "View Open APHIS Dockets" link to locate this docket.

If you wish more details about the *P. ramorum* Federal regulatory program, you may contact the National *Phytophthora ramorum* Program Manager, Jonathan Jones at (301) 734-5038.

/s/ Richard L. Dunkle

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