



SUDDEN OAK DEATH

Phytophthora ramorum

This disease has already made its impact along the higher elevations in our community, Skyline Blvd, Old Lahonda Road and Bear Gulch Road to just name a few. Because SOD may be spread through the movement of infested soil and plant material it is important that we as a community follow the “*Best Standards of Practice*” and to avoid any additional spread. If you have a

confirmed case of SOD anywhere in your neighborhood that means SOD can easily effect your trees.

California bay laurels are common hosts to the pathogen and specific leaf spots shown here are typical of *P. ramorum* infestation.



Signs & Symptom of Infestation:

- I. Neighboring Bay laurels have leaf spots.
- II. Rhododendrons with brown leaf spot starting at the end of leaf.
- III. Bleeding cankers on trunk of Oak.



Already infested Oak trees are not treatable at this time and careful management practices for maintaining infected or dead SOD trees should be adhered to.

What to Do if My Tree is Infected or Dies from SOD:

- I. If your tree is showing signs of SOD leave it alone. You may want to contact a certified arborist, but trimming, fertilizing or an chemical immunity agent such as Agri fos is not going to help your tree at this time.
- II. If your tree dies from SOD and is not threatening life or property consider letting it stand. If you choose to remove the tree, burning the cut wood in your home fireplace is the best way to deal with infested material. Leaf and small branch material can be chipped and spread thinly in the area where the tree died. DO NOT spread the chips elsewhere in your yard or give to anyone as mulch. If infected material is removed from your yard make sure it is in a sealed or tightly tarped vehicles and is being taken to a nearby refuge plant that is able to take the diseased material and correctly dispose of it.

Preventive Measures:

- I. If possible remove infected Bay laurels that are nearby to healthy stands of susceptible varieties of Oaks.
- II. Use the preventive chemical immune agent “Agri Fos” or “Pentra Bark” on the trunks of healthy Oaks.
- III. Disinfect tools, after using on each tree, if you or other individuals are trimming Oaks.
- IV. Consider disinfecting footwear and animals paws or hooves before leaving infested SOD areas.
- IV. If you have SOD infected material on your property consider posting a warning on the infected tree or material.



REFER TO THE CALIFORNIA OAK MORTALITY TASK FORCE WEBSITE FREQUENTLY FOR NEW UPDATES www.suddenoakdeath.org