

WINDOW ON AGRICULTURE

Office of the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner

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SUDDEN OAK DEATH (SOD) Frequently Asked Questions

Is Sudden Oak Death the only cause of oak trees, Tanoaks and other hosts dying?

No. Many other pathogens can also kill oaks, Tanoaks, and other hosts. In particular, the Phytophthora Root Rot Fungus (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) and Oak Root Fungus (*Armillaria mellea*) are common in landscape and garden settings. In addition to these, other pests, pathogens, improper cultural practices (such as soil compaction), root pruning, over-watering and herbicide use may contribute to the death of oak trees, Tanoaks, and other hosts.

Are there other diseases or insects that can cause similar symptoms/signs of Sudden Oak Death on oaks trees?

Yes. Some of the symptoms/signs of SOD can be similar to symptoms/signs of other diseases or insects such as Bacterial Wetwood (Slime flux), Oak Root Fungus, Phytophthora Root disease, Carpenter Worms, and Pacific Flatheaded Borers.

If my oak tree or Tanoak has Sudden Oak Death, what are the chances it will die?

There is no way to determine if an individual tree will live or die. Individual trees respond differently to infection, and experience tells us that it is rare for a pathogen to kill 100% of the plants it infects. Depending on a number of factors, some trees may never become infected, some may become infected and survive for various lengths of time, and others may become infected and die quickly. Initial observations tell us that Tanoak has a high probability of being killed by SOD, but we would still expect many to survive.

Are there any treatments that will cure an infected tree or prevent infection in a healthy tree?

There are currently "**NO**" known cures or preventatives

for SOD. The use of any pesticide to control SOD is experimental at this time.

If you cut down an infected tree, what should be done with the wood and foliage?

Regulations currently prohibit the movement of infected wood, foliage, etc. to areas that are disease free. Contact our office to receive the latest requirements for movement of infected plant material. Local spread of the disease occurs naturally, but long distance spread can occur when people move infected wood, plants, or plant parts. If you cut down an infected tree, make sure the wood and other tree parts are not transported to disease free areas.

Contact Information:

To see pictures, maps, and to get further information on Sudden Oak Death on the web:
<http://www.suddenoakdeath.org>

To obtain "general" information about Sudden Oak Death contact:

Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office:
707-565-2371

University of California Cooperative Extension: 707-565-2621

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection:
707-576-2936 (ask for Bruce Hagen)

To obtain information about Sudden Oak Death "regulations" contact:

Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office:
707-565-2371

RESOURCE WEBSITES

Submitted by Joseph Gray

Have you ever needed pesticide labels, pesticide safety information, updated information on the National Organic Program in a hurry?. There are several websites on the internet that provide these resources. Below is a brief description of the site with the website address.

Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office-

Agriculture Division, Animal Regulation, and Weights and Measures.

<http://sonoma-county.org/agcomm/index.htm>

California Department of Pesticide Regulation-

Pesticide Laws and Regulations, Pesticide Safety Information, Pesticide Use Data and Pesticides Registered in California.

<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov>

California Department of Food and Agriculture-

Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter and other pests.

<http://www.cdffa.ca.gov>

Pesticide labels or Material Safety Data Sheets-

(Greenbook)- <http://www.greenbook.net>

(CDMS)- <http://www.cdms.net>

Pesticide Toxicology information-

(ExToxNet)- <http://ace.orst.edu/info/extoxnet/>

Integrated Pest Management Information-

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/default.html>

National Organic Program information-

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/>

DETECTION TRAPPING

Submitted by Pete Albers

Due to recent concerns about the possible introduction of exotic insect pests, both the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), have increased funding to augment our current pest detection-trapping program. The increased trapping will only take place in urban areas, where the risk of introduction of exotic pests is the highest. We have doubled trap totals for both Oriental Fruit Fly and Melon Fly, as well as

added McPhail traps to our program. The McPhail trap is a glass trap, which uses a combination of yeast and

water as an attractant. The fermenting yeast mimics rotting fruit, thus attracting the flies. This is a "general purpose" fruit fly trap, which will not only augment our current trapping program for Mediterranean Fruit Fly, Oriental Fruit Fly, and Melon Fly, but also help detect the introduction of other exotic fruit fly pests, such as Mexican Fruit Fly and Caribbean Fruit Fly. Unlike our current traps, which are serviced every two weeks, the McPhail traps are serviced weekly. We have added two new detection trappers, April Goltermann and Alex McVicker, to deploy and service these traps. With this augmentation we will have 1,485 total exotic insect pest traps deployed through out the county.

LICENSE RENEWALS

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has announced that it will be sending out renewal notices for license holders who are expiring (last names beginning with A through L) by early September. A Renewal Time Line chart has been established to help applicants determine when they may expect to receive their license based on the date their renewal application is received in the Licensing and Certification Unit. (See chart below)

DATE RECEIVED	LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE MAILED BY:
Prior to or on September 30, 2002	November 15, 2002
Prior to or on October 31, 2002	December 16, 2002
Prior to or on November 29, 2002	January 17, 2003
Prior to or on December 31, 2002	February 18, 2003
Prior to or on January 31, 2003	March 14, 2003

DPR suggests two tips to save time and trouble while renewing your license. Apply early, and carefully check your application for incorrect or missing information. The most common mistakes are lack of documentation for continuing education, missing signatures, failure to include payment, or making an incorrect payment. If you have any questions, contact the Department of Pesticide Regulation Licensing Branch at (916) 445-4038.