Information from The American Horticultural Society on Sudden Oak Death (SOD) 6-15-19

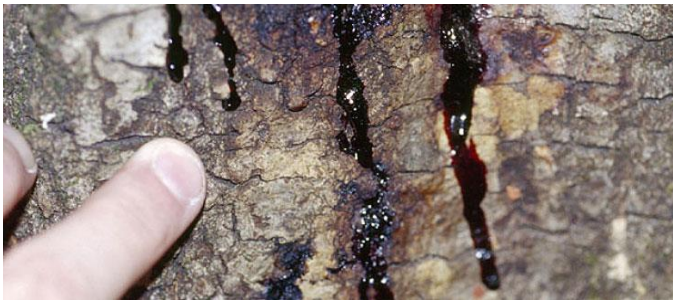
Many thanks to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for providing us with an update on the infection of certain rhododendrons with Phytophthora ramorum (P. ramorum), which can cause sudden oak death.

According to APHIS, more than 20 rhododendron plants found in Indiana nurseries tested positive for P. ramorum. They were detected during this year's national P. ramorum survey, which APHIS coordinates with participating states. The infected plants were part of a larger shipment originating from nurseries in Washington and Canada, and APHIS is working with officials from those locations to trace the distribution of plants from the shipment, which were sent to 18 states, including: Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

APHIS added that agriculture officials in those states are currently visiting nursery locations to sample plants received from the originating nurseries. Plants that test positive will be destroyed, as will those plants that were located within a 2-meter radius of an infected plant. Host plants outside the 2-meter radius will be sampled intensively, and other hosts in the impacted facilities will be monitored for signs of the disease.

APHIS advises gardeners and homeowners who purchased a rhododendron in the affected states in recent time to monitor the plant for signs of disease, including leaf spots and shoot dieback, and to contact your local State Department of Agriculture or Extension Office if you suspect your plant might have the disease.

Infected rhododendron leaf



Infected Oak symptoms

Infected Oak symptoms

Oak devastation in forests