



## California Oak Mortality Task Force

# SUDDEN OAK DEATH

*Be sure to always clean your shoes, tires, equipment, and pet's paws before leaving an area known to have Sudden Oak Death to avoid accidentally spreading the pathogen to uninfested areas.*

### What is Sudden Oak Death?

Sudden Oak Death (SOD) is a relatively new plant disease killing oak and tanoak trees and adversely affecting more than 100 other plants in California. The disease is caused by the pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*, but was given the name Sudden Oak Death because infected trees can change rapidly in appearance from green and healthy looking to brown and dead or dying in a matter of weeks.

### Where is it found in the U.S.?

There are currently 14 California counties known to have Sudden Oak Death.

- Alameda
- Contra Costa
- Humboldt
- Lake
- Marin
- Mendocino
- Monterey
- Napa
- San Francisco
- San Mateo
- Santa Clara
- Santa Cruz
- Solano
- Sonoma

It has also been confirmed in Curry County, Oregon.

### What plants are affected?

Currently there are 5 tree species that can be killed when they are infected with *Phytophthora ramorum*.

- tanoak
- California black oak
- coast live oak
- Shreve's oak
- canyon live oak

In addition, a number of plants are affected on the foliage and twigs. In extreme cases of foliar and twig infection, some plants such as madrone and evergreen huckleberry can be killed by the dieback; however, most foliar hosts do not die from the pathogen. Go to the COMTF website for the comprehensive host list at [www.suddenoakdeath.org](http://www.suddenoakdeath.org).

## Some Consequences of Sudden Oak Death Include

- altered visual landscape
- alteration of forest and woodland ecosystems
- adverse economic impacts to homeowners and landowners, nurseries, and other affected industries
- increased risk of tree failure
- poorer water quality due to increased soil erosion
- reduction of wildlife food and habitat resources
- increased risk of wildfires

## About the Task Force

The California Oak Mortality Task Force (COMTF) brings together public agencies, non-profit organizations, and private interests to address the issue of elevated levels of oak mortality. The Task Force facilitates a comprehensive and unified approach for research, management, education, and public policy. It is a voluntary group made up of over 80 organizations and has more than 1,000 members. Find out how to become a COMTF member at [www.suddenoakdeath.org](http://www.suddenoakdeath.org).

## What can I do?

At the COMTF web site ([www.suddenoakdeath.org](http://www.suddenoakdeath.org)) you can:

- Familiarize yourself with the symptoms of Sudden Oak Death; find out what plants are affected, where it is found, and how to report an infected site;
- Learn about *Phytophthora ramorum* state and federal quarantines, regulations, and best management practices;
- Gain a broader understanding of Sudden Oak Death and acquire further information on the Task Force;
- Identify key contacts for Sudden Oak Death information in your area; and
- Sign up at <http://nature.Berkeley.EDU/mailman/listinfo/comtf> to receive monthly electronic updates, upcoming seminars, and breaking news.