



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT of  
**AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY**

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Commissioner

**PEST:** Sudden Oak Death (*Phytophthora ramorum*)

**BASIC PROFILE:** SOD is a fungal pathogen that attacks dozens of species of trees and ornamental plants. It occurs on the West Coast in forested areas and has been found in nurseries so it can spread through infected nursery stock and soil. Symptoms may appear on leaves and twigs of nursery stock and on the trunks of infected trees. Leaves show a water-soaked area surrounding dead or brown dying tissue, usually on the tip or the margin of the leaf. Twigs and trunks develop canker-like symptoms.

**LDAF ACTIVITY:** LDAF conducts annual surveys for SOD at retail and wholesale nursery locations, usually in spring, looking for evidence of SOD symptoms. LDAF also checks certification paperwork to confirm origin and follows up on traceforwards from infested nurseries. Symptomatic plants are sampled and submitted for analysis. If positive SOD sites are discovered, stop sales are issued and quarantine action is taken, based on current federal protocols and restrictions. A federal quarantine is in place.

