

The Working Group for Phytophthoras in Native Habitats

Working collaboratively to prevent invasive species introductions in California wildlands

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Introduction

Recent detections of exotic *Phytophthora* species in native plant habitats and nurseries have prompted the formation of a Working Group to prevent pathogen movement on native plants grown in nurseries. The group coalesced in response to a first-in-the-USA detection of the plant pathogen *Phytophthora tentaculata* in several California native plant nurseries and restoration areas. Follow-up investigations have since identified more than 30 *Phytophthora* taxa in native plant nurseries; in addition, a number of rare or threatened native species have been recognized as dying from *Phytophthora* infestations that have been introduced into their habitats.

Activities

The Working Group formed in 2015 to determine steps needed to protect wildlands and assist the restoration industry. We have since:

- held online and hands-on training sessions;
- created online resources, including the www.CalPhytos.org website;
- conducted a Research Needs Assessment;
- drafted guidance documents for sanitation practices along the entire restoration pathway; and
- created briefing papers and other outreach materials.

Next steps include designing and piloting a voluntary accreditation program for restoration nurseries.



Examining plants at a hands-on nursery training in June 2015. Photo: UCCE Marin.



Placer County nursery site. Photo: CDFA.

Join

We invite you to engage with the Working Group to help address the complex issue of *Phytophthora* species in native plant nurseries and restoration sites. For more details and to join the group, contact Janice Alexander (jalexander@ucanr.edu; 415-473-3041). See www.CalPhytos.org for more resources and information.

Background photo: A rare healthy plant, Coyote ceanothus (*Ceanothus ferrisiae*). A restoration effort in Santa Clara County introduced *Phytophthora cactorum* to one of the last few spots this plant grows in. Photo: Santa Clara Valley Water District.

1. UC Cooperative Extension, Marin County
2. The Watershed Nursery
3. USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station
4. Golden Gate Parks Conservancy