

Phytophthoras in Native Habitats Working Group

Working collaboratively to prevent invasive species introduction into 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 nursery plants. 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 33 *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 Phytophthoras in Native Plant Habitats Working Group formed to determine steps needed to protect wildlands and assist the restoration industry. We met for the first time in March 2015 and have since:

- held online and hands-on training sessions
 - created online educational resources
 - drafted briefing papers
 - conducted a Research Needs Assessment.
- We are currently working to address the need for consistent Best Management Practices and a certification program, and better understanding risks to wildlands.



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).

Background photo: A rare healthy plant, Coyote ceanothus (*Ceanothus ferrisiae*). A restoration effort in Santa Clara Co. 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