



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE

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COMMISSIONER

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MDAC Halts Transfer Of Plants from California

Commissioner Lester Spell of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce announced today that he has quarantined selected nursery plants into Mississippi from California. This action was taken to protect the state from the recently discovered *Sudden Oak Death* disease that has now been found in at least two California nurseries, which ship plant material into the state.

This fungal disease can be very serious and affects not only oaks, but other well known plants such as azaleas, camellias, rhododendrons, maples, and beech trees. Specifically, the quarantine will prohibit the movement of 27 plant genera which are known to be host material for this disease according to the United States Department of Agriculture. The disease was recently discovered on camellia bushes at the Monrovia Nursery in Azusa, CA, and also at the Specialty Plants Nursery in San Marcos, California.

The California Department of Agriculture suspects that up to 11 other nursery facilities in California may test positive for the disease. California authorities have not released the locations or names of the nurseries in question.

“California is making it impossible for us to either source or track this suspected plant material. We have no choice but to be cautious and prohibit the movement of these plants,” said Spell. “Our state’s nursery industry and our native forest lands are at stake and we will take no chances.”

Attached is a listing of the quarantined plant material involved. Please contact the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Bureau of Plant Industry, at 662-325-3391 or go to: www.mdac.state.ms.us

Sudden Oak Death, *Phytophthora ramorum* Quarantine

Regulated Articles

Plants from these genera are considered regulated articles and are prohibited entry into Mississippi.

- **Abies**
- **Acer**
- **Aesculus**
- **Arctostaphylos**
- **Camellia**
- **Corylus**
- **Fagus**
- **Hamamelis**
- **Kalmia**
- **Leucothoe**
- **Lithocarpus**
- **Lonicera**
- **Pieris**
- **Pittosporum**
- **Pseudotsuga**
- **Quercus**
- **Rhamnus**
- **Rhododendron**
- **Rubus**
- **Sequoia**
- **Syringa**
- **Taxus**
- **Toxicodendron**
- **Trientalis**
- **Umbellularia**
- **Vaccinium**
- **Viburnum**

For additional information concerning this list contact the Bureau of Plant Industry, Plant Pest Division at (662) 325-3390.