

USDA-APHIS-PPQ
Potentially Actionable Suspect Sample Policy:
Phytophthora ramorum

Overview

A Potentially Actionable Suspect Sample (PASS) is a **regulatory sample** where preliminary diagnostics indicate a USDA regulatory pathogen is present and requires confirmation by the USDA APHIS PPQ Plant Pathogen Confirmatory Diagnostic Laboratory (PPCDL).

Samples Collected from a Non-Quarantine Area or Non-Regulated Establishment

Any **regulatory sample** collected from a **non-quarantine area** or **non-regulated establishment** that tests positive or inconclusive for *P. ramorum* by a **PPDCP certified diagnostician** using the APHIS approved Screening Work Instructions is considered a PASS and must be forwarded to the USDA APHIS PPQ S&T-PPCDL for final determination. Sample should consist of symptomatic plant material and DNA.

USDA-APHIS-PPQ-S&T PPCDL

Sample Diagnostics
9901 Powder Mill Road
BARC-East, Bldg. 580
Laurel, MD 20708
Phone: (301) 313-9208 or (301) 313-9223

When forwarding materials notify the lab at: APHIS-PPQCPHSTBeltvilleSampleDiagnostics@usda.gov. You must include number of samples and tracking information in this communication. Do not ship samples on Fridays or the day before a federal holiday.

Samples Collected from a Quarantined Area or Regulated Establishment

A **regulatory sample** collected in a **quarantined area** or **regulated establishment** that tests positive for *P. ramorum* by a **PPDCP Certified diagnostician** using the APHIS approved Screening Work Instructions is considered a PASS and must be forwarded to the USDA APHIS PPQ S&T-PPDCL for final determination under the following conditions:

- The sample is the first positive from a certified nursery or a nursery seeking certification in a Quarantined Area.
- The sample is an unusual detection (novel symptoms or new host).

A **regulatory sample** collected in a **quarantined area** or **regulated establishment** that does not follow the condition stated above is a **non-PASS**. A PPDCP certified diagnostician has the authority to make the final determination on a regulatory sample collected from a quarantined area or regulated establishment (previously confirmed positive by APHIS PPQ S&T) if:

- The laboratory notifies both the APHIS National Policy and National Operations Managers of the positive within 24 hours of the diagnostic result.
- APHIS and the state are in concurrence on the list of previously positive regulated areas or establishment within the state.

A regulatory sample (**either PASS or non-PASS**) that tests inconclusive for *P. ramorum* by a **PPDCP Certified Diagnostician** using the APHIS approved Screening Work Instructions must be forwarded to the USDA-APHIS-PPQ Plant Pathologist - Domestic Identifier Laboratory (PPDIL) for further testing. Under certain circumstances, the diagnostician may be instructed by PPQ to forward PASS inconclusive samples directly to the PPCDL for processing.

USDA-APHIS-PPQ Field Operations, Kansas State University
4024 Throckmorton
Manhattan, KS 66506-5502
Phone: (785) 532-1349, PPQ.Ops.KS.Manhattan.Lab@usda.gov

USDA-APHIS-PPQ
Potentially Actionable Suspect Sample Policy:
Phytophthora ramorum

Definitions

Non-PASS (Potentially Actionable Suspect Sample): Are all subsequent samples from a nursery or area that APHIS confirmed positive for *P. ramorum*. A PPDCP certified diagnostician outside of APHIS can make the final determination using PPCDL diagnostic work instructions. For a nursery that has been historically positive, all samples are “non-PASS” if tested by the PPDCP certified diagnostician.

PPDCP certified diagnostician: A person recognized by APHIS through the Plant Pathogen Diagnostic Certification Program as possessing all the necessary equipment and certified personnel to perform *P. ramorum* screening tests using the current APHIS work instructions.

Potentially Actionable Suspect Sample (PASS): Presumptive positive *P. ramorum* sample that requires confirmatory testing by an official APHIS Laboratory due to the nature of the plant sampled and the necessity for Federal confirmation. That is, a sample from a new state, new county, new nursery, new host that is not on the APHIS list, or a novel symptom.

Quarantine Area: Any area where *P. ramorum* has been found and officially confirmed in the natural environment.

Regulated Establishment: Any APHIS recognized area or establishment where *P. ramorum* has been federally confirmed.

Regulatory Sample: This is a sample of regulatory concern to APHIS for *P. ramorum* collected by regulatory officials.