



## News Advisory

### EAST BAY SUDDEN OAK DEATH BLITZ

**Date:** May 21, 2008

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OAKLAND—A Sudden Oak Death (SOD) Blitz is planned for Tilden, Wildcat Canyon, Redwood, and Briones Regional Parks on June 7 – 8, 2008. Led by UC Berkeley's Dr. Matteo Garbelotto, and supported by the California Oak Mortality Task Force (COMTF), the Blitz is intended to raise awareness of SOD as well as to determine the locations and boundaries of the disease in each of the parks.

**When:** Saturday, June 7, 2008  
10:00 – 11:30 a.m. (first training session)  
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (alternate training session)

**Where:** Trudeau Center  
11500 Skyline Blvd.  
Oakland, CA

**Registration:** FREE  
Registrants should bring GPS Units if they have them

SOD Blitz participants will be trained to identify disease symptoms, correctly sample symptomatic plants, and document sample locations. Samples will be collected at the Trudeau Center at the end of each sampling day (June 7<sup>th</sup> and June 8<sup>th</sup>) and taken to the UC Berkeley Garbelotto lab where they will be analyzed to determine the presence or absence of *Phytophthora ramorum*, the pathogen that causes SOD. Laboratory results will be used to generate a map of disease distribution at each park.

SOD, a serious exotic disease, is threatening the survival of tanoak and several oak species in California. Currently it is found in the wildlands of 14 coastal California counties, from Monterey to Humboldt. While patchy in distribution, with each passing year, the areas of infection continue to become more contiguous. Researchers have discovered that *P. ramorum*

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spreads most often on infected California bay laurel leaves. Symptomatic bay leaves are often the first sign that SOD has arrived at a location, and generally precedes oak infections. Some management options are available (sanitation, chemical preventative treatments, selective bay removal), but they are effective only if implemented before oaks and tanoaks are infected; hence, timely detection of the disease on bay laurel leaves is key for a successful proactive attempt to slow down the SOD epidemic.

SOD Blitzes have already been conducted in Monterey and San Mateo Counties, and two final blitz locations are planned this spring in Mendocino and Humboldt Counties. Targeted Blitz locations were those believed to have low to intermediate levels of disease. Funding for the SOD-Blitzes was provided by the USDA Forest Service.

**For more information on the East Bay SOD Blitz, contact Sue Rosenthal at (510) 496-6016 or [rosacalifornica@earthlink.net](mailto:rosacalifornica@earthlink.net). For information on other upcoming SOD Blitz activity, or for information on Sudden Oak Death, contact Katie Palmieri at (510) 847-5482.**

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