

Grower Assisted Inspection Program

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Does the nursery have to be *Phytophthora* free to be in the program? If the nursery tests positive for *Phytophthora* will they be kicked out?**

The answer is no to both of these questions.

If a *P. ramorum* positive is found at a nursery, participation in the GAIP will not work as a “get out of jail free” card. The United States Department of Agriculture Confirmed Nursery Protocol would still be followed.

2. **What are the benefits to participating in the GAIP?**

The GAIP is a proactive approach to prevent *Phytophthoras* in the Oregon nursery industry. By applying the Best Cultural Practices (BCPs) plants are less likely to become infected with disease. In the event of a positive, nurseries will also be less likely to suffer regulatory consequences. As a result, nurseries will regain quality plants with lower input for top quality plants. Besides *Phytophthoras*, other disease and insect problems may decrease as well.

3. **If a nursery does not meet the requirements targeting the Critical Control Points (recycled water, potting media, and plant buy-ins), can a nursery still participate in GAIP?**

Yes, a provisional compliance will be written into the Mitigation Manual. The provision would need to include a date of expected completion. In the event the correction is not completed by said date, an extension will be granted as long as the Oregon Department of Agriculture GAIP auditor has been notified.

4. **How often does the Mitigation Manual need to be updated?**

Participation in the GAIP requires the manual to be revised as any change occurs. The Mitigation Manual Status page will also need to be updated at this time. Keep all original paperwork at the nursery and send a copy of the page(s) with a brief description of change(s) to:

Oregon Department of Agriculture
Plant Division
Attention: Melissa Lujan GAIP auditor
635 Capitol St. NE
Salem, OR 97301-2532 USA

5. **Are other states familiar with GAIP?**

Information about the program has been passed along.

6. Does the trace back/forward information need to be included in the Mitigation Manual?

No, this does not need to be included in the GAIP Mitigation Manual. This information is already required for any nurseries shipping host and associated host plants (HAP) out of state. Each nursery must sign a federal compliance agreement with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the USDA. This agreement **requires** nurseries to keep these records. Nurseries also need to be able to supply those records to the USDA within 10 days of being found positive for *P. ramorum*.

7. Do plants need to be quarantined if they are brought in from Oregon nurseries?

Plant quarantines are not required for GAIP, but it is a BCP that some nurseries may choose to follow.

All information relating to plant buy-ins will be addressed as a CCP in the Procurement Processes Section of the Mitigation Manual.

The only time this would become an issue is if HAP was purchased from a non-certified nursery. If the plant material is not certified, it needs to be held until the ODA can inspect, sample and use lab reports to certify the material.

8. How should plant material be handled that comes from other locations, or contract growers?

Plant material from these locations would be treated the same as other incoming plant material, and listed as a CCP.

9. Does the potting media need to be stored on a concrete pad?

A concrete pad is not required but it is the best way to store soil. If the soil is not on a non-porous surface soil tests must be conducted and documented as a CCC.

10. Should plastic be used under a media pile if a nursery does not have a concrete pad?

This is not necessary as long there is no standing water or plant debris lying around. A soil pile on native soil would need to be tested and documented as a CCC.

11. Do nurseries need to approach their potting media suppliers about the cleanliness of the potting media?

This would be up to each nursery. If possible, ask the media supplier if they test for *Phytophthora* pathogens. If they do ask for copies of their test results.

12. What requirements are there for reuse of compost on HAP?

If a nursery chooses to compost old plant material they must ensure that all procedures have been conducted correctly to ensure the right temperature for the right amount of time has been reached. This information must also be documented as a CCP. It is recommended leave the “terrible two” (*Rhododendron* and *Camellia*) out of the compost pile. If possible, it is best to leave out all HAP.

13. Is it a requirement to sanitize used containers?

The use of recycled containers will need to be addressed as a CCC for the Mitigation Manual. The risk factor involved of possible contamination is very high. Containers should be cleaned of all media and sanitized. The containers may also be pasteurized as long as heat and time requirements have been met. This information would need to be available for documentation.

14. Is there any potting media that is not susceptible to *Phytophthora r.*?

The soil media itself is not susceptible it becomes contaminated.

15. Is there a recommended frequency of self-inspections to add to mitigation manual?

At least once a month is suggested. There will be many different factors to look at such as nursery production practices, plant species, and time of the year that would need to be looked at to determine a schedule.

16. Is Zero-tol effective for *Phytophthora r.*?

No, *Phytophthora* is not listed on the label.

The OSU online course (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/phytophthora>) has a list of chemicals under module 2, chemical control that are appropriate for these purposes.

17. What kind of barriers can be used inside of greenhouses?

When poly is covering a house this is adequate to separate each house from one another.

If you want a barrier within the greenhouse a piece of plastic can be used. The size of the plastic will vary depending on how tall the plants are in the house. It needs to be tall enough to prevent any splashing to the other side. Pay attention to the ground area to ensure water drains appropriately.

18. Will nurseries be able to conduct field tests for *Phytophthora*?

Yes, every nursery in GAIP will receive an ELISA kit. There are multiple tests in each kit.

If you have the ability for in-house testing at your nursery please let me know as we can get you a different type of kit.

19. If nurseries have the ability to conduct in-house testing, are there funds to help with the cost of lab supplies (Petri dishes, etc.)?

No, these costs would be up to the nursery.

20. Once the kits are dispersed, who pays for additional lab testing if ELISA shows a *Phytophthora* present?

The nursery would take care of these costs.

21. Beyond the GAIP trial period who would cover the cost of the kits?

The nurseries would take care of this.