

Portola Valley & Woodside SOD-BLITZ
SUDDEN OAK DEATH /PHYTOPHTHORA RAMORUM
Community Meeting and Instruction: 7:00p.m. April 17th, 2009
Specimen Collection in the Field: April 18th & 19th, 2009
Community Hall in Portola Valley Town Center
765 Portola Road, Portola Valley

SUDDEN OAK DEATH IS A MAJOR PROBLEM IN OUR AREA. YOU CAN BE A CITIZEN-SCIENTIST AND PART OF THE SOLUTION. ONLY A BIT OF YOUR TIME ON TWO DAYS REQUIRED.

To aid in understanding of this scourge, residents are invited to collect specimens which will be used in producing detailed local maps of the disease distribution.

A short organizational meeting will be held on Friday, April 17 at 7:00 p.m. at Portola Valley Town Hall. At this meeting volunteers will learn to:

- a) **identify bay trees, which are frequent carriers of the disease**
- b) **collect samples of bay leaves**
- c) **record sample locations using addresses or GPS (samples may be collected anywhere in the Portola Valley and Woodside area, including areas that were sampled last year)**
- d) **use distributed materials for specimen collection and labeling**

Matteo Garbelotto, Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management at U.C. Berkeley will answer questions about Sudden Oak Death and this study.

Samples will be collected by volunteers on Saturday, April 18 and/or Sunday, April 19. All samples will be returned to either Portola Valley Town Hall or Woodside Town Hall for pickup by 4 p.m. on Sunday.

UC Berkeley diagnostic laboratory will analyze each sample through microscopic and DNA analysis. After all samples have been tested, a map will be generated confirming the presence or absence of the pathogen in the area. This map will expand the mapping which was generated by the SOD-BLITZ held in May 2008. Similar events are being held at many locations in California. Results will be available and follow up meetings will be held to present the findings.

For more information, contact:

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