

## Geographical Distribution of *Phytophthora ramorum* in Norway<sup>1</sup>

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### Abstract

In November 2002, *Phytophthora ramorum* was detected for the first time in Norway. It was isolated from *Rhododendron catawbiense* imported earlier the same year. After the first detection, the Norwegian Food Safety Authority has carried out surveys from 2003 to 2006. The surveys were first directed to nurseries and garden centres. Most of the positive findings were on *Rhododendron* spp., but one sample of *Pieris japonica*, one of *Kalmia* sp., one of *Syringa* sp. and one of *Viburnum* sp. were also positive. In 2005 and 2006, *P. ramorum* was isolated from well-established viburnum and rhododendron plants in private gardens, parks and public greens. Infections were detected on well-established plants from nine different outdoor sites. While the positive samples from nurseries were spread over the country, the positives found on well-established plants were concentrated in and around the cities of Bergen and Stavanger on the southwestern coast of Norway. This part of the country has cool summers, mild winters and more than 2000 mm of annual precipitation. In 2006, *P. ramorum* was found in private gardens in the eastern part of the country on young recently introduced plants. *P. ramorum* was found in 12 import shipments, mainly on rhododendron, but also on a viburnum sample.

Key words: *Phytophthora ramorum*, Norway, survey.

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