DATE: December 22, 2004

TO: Washington Nurseries

FROM: Tom Wessels, Plant Services Program Manager

RE: EMERGENCY FEDERAL ORDER Restricting the Movement of Nursery Stock Begins January 10

On December 21, 2004, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) of USDA issued an emergency order restricting the interstate movement of nursery stock from Washington, Oregon and California nurseries to prevent the dissemination of Phytophthora ramorum, the causal agent of sudden oak death (SOD). The enclosed federal order defines nursery stock on page 2 and lists SOD host species and associated host species in Attachments I and II.

All Washington nurseries that ship nursery stock interstate are affected by the order. Beginning January 10, 2005, nurseries that grow or sell nursery stock listed in Attachments I and II are prohibited from shipping any nursery stock out of the state until the nursery has been inspected, tested and found free of Phytophthora ramorum. The nursery must also enter into a compliance agreement with APHIS and the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) before shipping nursery stock interstate.

The order also prohibits nurseries that do not grow or sell plants listed in Attachments I and II from shipping nursery stock out of state, effective March 11, 2005, until they are inspected and found free of Phytophthora ramorum. These nurseries are not required to enter into a compliance agreement with APHIS and WSDA. Implementation of the federal order will be delayed until July 1, 2005 for nurseries that grow and sell deciduous nursery stock, providing the nursery does not grow or sell plants listed in Attachments I and II.

Washington nurseries bringing shipments of woody forest and ornamental trees, shrubs and vines into the state must continue to notify WSDA of all incoming shipments as required in Chapter 16-402 WAC.

WSDA will post lists of all Washington nurseries approved for shipping under the federal order on its Web site at www.agr.wa.gov. If you wish to be inspected under the federal order or if you have any questions about the order, please contact the WSDA Plant Services Inspector in your area (see reverse for list) or contact Tom Wessels at (360) 902-1984, twessels@agr.wa.gov or Cindy Cooper at (360) 902-2062, ccooper@agr.wa.gov.

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