

SUBJECT: Federal Order for *Phytophthora alni*

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is issuing a Federal Order (attached) to prohibit the importation from all countries of *Alnus* spp. plants for planting (excluding seed) because they are hosts of *Phytophthora alni* Brasier & S.A. Kirk 2004. To prevent the introduction and dissemination of this harmful plant pathogen into the United States, this Federal Order will be implemented beginning July 6, 2009.

Recent scientific literature identified *P. alni* as a destructive plant pathogen that seriously affects and leads to the death of plants in its host genus, *Alnus* Mill. *P. alni* is rapidly spreading through Europe in riparian environments and possibly through the movement of plants for planting.

Certain pathogenic strains of *P. alni* are not known to occur in the United States, and the pathogen is not known to be seed-transmitted. Plant pathogens, including viruses and viroids, are extremely difficult to detect during a port of entry inspection of the host plants, particularly in the absence of symptoms.

In order to prevent the entry of *P. alni*, APHIS has determined that it is necessary to prohibit the importation of *Alnus* spp. plants for planting, with the exception of seed, until a pest risk analysis has been completed and appropriate effective mitigation measures have been established.