

Federal Order:

Phytophthora alni:

Causal organism of alder (*Alnus* spp.) decline

June 22, 2009

The purpose and goal of this Federal Order is to prevent the introduction and dissemination of the harmful plant pest *Phytophthora alni*, the causal organism of alder decline, from all foreign countries into the United States. Certain pathogenic strains of *P. alni* are not known to occur in the United States. This Federal Order is issued pursuant to Section 412(a) of the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 7712(a), which authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the importation or entry of any plant, plant part, noxious weed or article if the Secretary determines that the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the entry of a plant pest or noxious weed into the United States.

This action is necessary because the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has determined that the introduction and establishment of *P. alni* poses a serious plant pest threat to the agriculture and environment of the United States. The host genus *Alnus* Mill. grows throughout the United States primarily in riparian environments. The decline of alder populations in riparian areas would lead to increased waterway erosion, siltation, disruption of native plant and animal communities and other harmful plant pest and environmental impacts.

P. alni is rapidly spreading through Europe and may have already spread to other countries in exported *Alnus* spp. plants for planting. Over the past three years, *Alnus* spp. plants for planting have been imported into the United States only from Europe; there have been no commercial importations from other parts of the world. Mitigations may be available to prevent the introduction of this pathogen on plants for planting although at this time APHIS has not determined them. The distribution of this pest and the identification of effective risk management measures will be determined through the pest risk analysis process based on future import requests from our trading partners.

In order to prevent the entry of *Phytophthora alni*, the APHIS Administrator has determined that it is necessary to prohibit the importation of *Alnus* spp. plants for planting from all foreign countries, with the exception of seed, until a pest risk analysis has been completed and effective mitigation measures have been determined. This Federal Order will be implemented beginning July 6, 2009.

Prohibited Plant Genus:

Alnus spp. plants for planting, except seed

Countries Prohibited from:

All foreign countries

/s/ John H. Payne for

6/22/09

Rebecca A. Bech
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Date