What you need to know about

PHYTOPHTHORA TENTACULATA
WHAT IS PHYTOPHTHORA?

(It’s pronounced fie-TOF-thur-uh.)

❖ They are classified as “water molds.”
❖ Phytophthora comes from Greek and means “plant destroyer.”
❖ Of its many relatives, perhaps the best known is Phytophthora infestans, noted for causing the Irish Potato Famine in the 1840s.
IN AN IDEAL WORLD...
PHYTOPHTHORA RAMORUM

Twenty years ago, scores of trees began visibly dying off around the Bay Area, in what turned out to be the advent of Sudden Oak Death.
HOST PLANT FOR SUDDEN OAK DEATH:

CALIFORNIA BAY TREES
P. RAMORUM CAN KILL A FOREST
Phytophthora Tentaculata

These are its HOST plants:

- Sticky monkey flower
- Coffeeberry
- Toyon
- Salvia sp
WHERE HAS THIS PLANT DESTROYER BEEN FOUND?

- It was first found in native plant habitat in Monterey and Alameda Counties.
- Now plants from those nurseries have infected native plants in Butte, Placer, and Santa Cruz counties.
- We don’t want it in Sacramento County.
STICKY MONKEYFLOWER
THIS NURSERY INVITES PHYTHPTHTHORA
WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

To make sure restoration managers are using materials that are free of phytophthora. (+ Ask your Nursery how they are dealing with it!)

**Symptoms:**

- Plants wilt, even though soil is wet, then we water some more because they are wilted. This makes it worse.
- Plants are stunted and slow growing.
- Leaves are a darker than usual green.
- Branches on large plants or whole seedlings wilt and die.
- Peel back the epidermis or bark and xylem (or epidermis) will be brownish rather than green.
- This or other related water molds are the cause of the rotting of cuttings, black areas on the stem appear first.
- Roots are brown or black and firm and brittle in the beginning, then decay and become soft. Outer sheaf of the root sloughs off.
WHAT ELSE YOU NEED TO KNOW

Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery is aware of the issues and instituted “Best Practices”:

❖ Commercial organic soil blend only - stored in a bin or barrel (no soil touches the ground or wood)
❖ New or sterilized pots only - we are buying 1 gallon pots now, and sterilizing all others that we reuse.
❖ Pots do not touch ground – whether planted or not, pots are only on gravel, cement blocks or benches
❖ No standing water anywhere in Nursery.
ELDERBERRY FARMS NATIVE PLANT NURSERY

Before

After

2140 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova on the American River Parkway at Soil Born Farms American River Ranch  SacValleyCNPS.org/Nursery