

Small Woodland Owners can Help Prevent the Introduction of Invasive *Phytophthoras*

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Recent introductions of *Phytophthoras* into sensitive restoration sites in California have created an urgent need to spread the word on *Phytophthora* prevention in Oregon. *Phytophthoras* are microscopic organisms that cause root, stem and leaf diseases in crops, ornamentals and native plants (including forbs, shrubs and trees). A recent extension publication, [Preventing *Phytophthora* Infestations in Restoration Nurseries](#), highlights the importance of *Phytophthora* prevention in restoration nurseries and at restoration sites. The publication provides information on best management practices (BMPs) including purchasing healthy plants from nurseries with excellent phytosanitation practices, ensuring that plants are transported in clean vehicles and plants are stored off the ground in intermediate holding areas. Additionally, tools, footwear, and vehicles should be cleaned prior to entering a restoration site (Figure 1). Providing *Phytophthora* prevention education and outreach efforts to support restoration nurseries and restoration practitioners is an important first step. There are other key groups engaged in restoration planting efforts that would be well served to receive straightforward and practical techniques to prevent *Phytophthora* infestations. These include small woodland owners and contractors who help them implement land management objectives.

Our group of extension educators and plant pathologists developed a short brochure to ensure that small woodland owners and their contractors received straightforward *Phytophthora* prevention information to help them successfully achieve their management objectives. Small woodland owners are often engaged in a full spectrum of

land management activities including restoration planting projects. Small woodland owners collaborate with local watershed associations on fish habitat improvement projects and receive cost share funding for conservation projects from the Natural Resource Conservation Service and Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

The [How to Prevent *Phytophthoras* in Restoration Plantings on Your Woodland](#) brochure is available online in the OSU extension catalog in English and Spanish. A quarter-fold brochure will also be available in both English and Spanish. The topics covered in the brochure include:

- A background on *Phytophthoras* and why these invasive pathogens are so damaging to our native ecosystems
- Why we need to focus on prevention
- Best practices for restoration planting
- How to keep planting projects clean
- A handy planting checklist with practical steps small woodland owners and their contractors can take to help prevent invasive pathogens from hitching a ride into a restoration site

The importance placed on *Phytophthora* prevention is highlighted by the diverse array of expertise represented by our authors. Marianne Elliott is a Washington State University research associate in the Department of Plant Pathology at the Puyallup Research and Extension Center. Jennifer Park is a courtesy faculty with the Department of Crop and Soil Science at Oregon State University (OSU). Aaron Groth is an OSU regional fire specialist. Beatriz Botello Solgado is an OSU family and

community health program coordinator. Norma Kline and Dan Stark are OSU extension foresters who work with small woodland owners. Both Beatriz and Aaron were instrumental in adapting the brochure for a Spanish speaking audience. This project was funded by the Oregon Forest Resources Institute.

If you would like copies of the brochure to help get the word out about this important topic please contact Norma Kline at Norma.Kline@Oregonstate.edu.

References

*Preventing *Phytophthora* Infestations in Restoration Nurseries*. <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9330>

*How to Prevent *Phytophthoras* in Restoration Plantings on Your Woodland*, <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/pub/em-9398>

*Prevención de las Especies de *Phytophthoras* en Plantaciones de Restauración en su Tierra*. <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/es/pub/em-9398>



Figure 1.