

Pest Alert: Ramorum dieback (*Phytophthora ramorum*) in trade



Figs. 1 - 4 from left to right: Aerial dieback of a *Rhododendron* branch with retained leaves. A typical *P. ramorum* lesion on a *Rhododendron* leaf. A potted *Rhododendron* with severe dieback. A *Viburnum* with leaf wilt and retained dead leaves. Figs. 1 & 2 © Crown copyright courtesy of Fera Science Ltd. Fig. 3 © Sophie Price, Defra. Fig. 4 © Sam Brown, APHA.

- *Phytophthora ramorum* is a serious fungus-like pathogen that damages a wide range of trees and ornamentals and is a **significant threat to our woodlands, parks and gardens.**
- **It is most frequently found on *Rhododendron* and *Viburnum* in trade.**
- In addition to *Rhododendron* and *Viburnum*, it infects a **wide range of ornamental hosts** including *Camellia*, *Choisya*, *Ilex*, *Lonicera*, *Magnolia*, *Osmanthus*, *Photinia*, *Pieris*, *Ribes* and *Vaccinium*.
- Symptoms on ornamental hosts include a **dagger-shaped blackening that extends along the midrib**, stem lesions, leaf wilt and **dieback.**
- *Phytophthora ramorum* is **spread by water (including irrigation systems), aerial dispersal via mist and rain and soil on tools, vehicles and boots.** Symptoms are likely to show after periods of heavy rain.

If you suspect the presence of the pest, please inform the relevant authority (see over for details).



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Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

For finds at garden centres and nurseries in England and Wales, contact your local APHA Plant Health and Seeds Inspector, or the PHSI headquarters, in York:

Tel: 0300 1000 313

Email: planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk

For Scotland, contact the Scottish Government's Horticulture and Marketing Unit:

Email: hort.marketing@gov.scot

For Northern Ireland, contact the DAERA Plant Health Inspection Branch:

Tel: 0300 200 7847

Email: planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk

Web: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/plant-and-tree-health>

For additional information on UK Plant Health please see:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/pests-and-diseases/uk-plant-health-risk-register/>

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/plant-health-controls>

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/plant/PlantHealth/PlantDiseases>

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk>