Shipping and Exporting in 2020

If shipping stock from a quarantined county into a non-quarantined county (either in Wisconsin or to another state), that stock must be free of regulated pests and diseases. For out-of-quarantine movement you may need a State or Federal Compliance Agreement (CA), or a PhytoSanitary Certificate.

When shipping to another state or country, the destination location typically requires documentation that the plants or plant products have been inspected and certified as free of insects or diseases. The certification may be issued through either DATCP or USDA-APHIS.

If inspectors detect gypsy moth on or near your stock, you may receive a treatment letter. Please be sure to promptly return treatment records, and follow guidelines to ensure that you are using an approved treatment method and timing treatment to effectively reduce pest risk.

NOTE: Quarantines are subject to change, view current quarantine maps on the DATCP website.

Boxwood Blight in Wisconsin

Inspectors found boxwood blight (which infects Buxus, Sarococcus, and Pachysandra) in the landscape in Wisconsin for the first time in 2019, at two locations from the same out-of-state source. This pathogen was also detected at three nursery retailers (including one selling cut boxwood holiday greenery) and one nursery grower. The nursery grower in SE WI has been working with DATCP to eradicate the pathogen since first detected there in 2018. In all instances, infected boxwood and debris were destroyed and precautions taken to sanitize any equipment used in the destruction. Because the sticky spores can survive for over five years in soil and leaf debris, boxwood can’t be replanted in areas where the disease has been detected. Several WI nurseries are under boxwood clean agreements, and we encourage retailers to purchase boxwood from sources that follow similar BMPs. If you notice boxwood with round, water-soaked lesions with dark edges and dropping leaves, report it to us right away. We are hopeful that this aggressive approach will protect this valuable ornamental evergreen shrub in Wisconsin. More information is on our Boxwood Blight webpage.
Be aware of Heterobasidion Root Disease

Be aware of Heterobasidion Root Disease (HRD) pathogen’s ability to infect freshly cut stumps of conifer trees. Wisconsin first confirmed this fungal pathogen, Heterobasidion irregulare in 1993. To-date, 28 counties in Wisconsin have confirmed finds of this pathogen, mainly in conifer plantations of spruce and pine. It’s also been found on yard and road-side trees. HRD was formerly known as Annosum Root Rot. Infected trees will have reduced growth, thin crown, and eventual mortality.

Species at highest risk of infection by this pathogen are pine and spruce, yet all firs, Douglas-firs, cedar, and larch trees can also be infected. Christmas tree fields with freshly cut stumps during cool to warm weather (roughly between April 1 and Nov. 30) are at risk of infection. The best action you can take is to learn more about where this root disease has been found and take preventative measures to limit your tree field exposure to the blowing fungal spores. Once a stump is infected, the fungus will spread directly through roots to nearby trees and these infecting spores can repeat the pattern, blowing to freshly cut stumps in the area. HRD can also infect hardwoods and their developing fungal conks can also blow spores to freshly cut stumps. The pathogen can remain active within the decaying wood of infected trees and stumps for decades. For more information about HRD visit dnr.wi.gov, keyword: “HRD”. A map with a 25 mile buffer circle around each HRD known site, showing at risk conifer growers, and HRD Fact Sheet link, is on the right side. The WI DNR HRD web site offers interactive web maps, where you can type in your address and see how close you are to a confirmed HRD find. They also have a publication, “Guidelines for Stump Treatment to Reduce the Risk of Introduction and Spread of Heterobasidion Root Disease”. This is a large file size, so be patient when downloading it.

2019 Sudden Oak Death (SOD) detection; Continued Vigilance in 2020

In summer 2019, APHIS PPQ staff detected the federally regulated pathogen that causes SOD/leaf blight in over 100 host species, Phytophthora ramorum, on six types of rhododendrons and two types of Kalmia at a nursery in Washington state. This inspection was a result of a trace back from an Oklahoma nursery that shipped P. ramorum-infected rhododendrons to large chain retailers in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Washington.

In July, DATCP was notified that the same Washington nursery had shipped over 4,000 rhododendrons and 400 azaleas potentially infected with P. ramorum to two Wisconsin nurseries. Many of those plants had been distributed to other nurseries, leading DATCP inspectors to visit 59 locations by the end of July in search of symptomatic stock. Of 43 samples collected, 1 sample from a Marathon County nursery was positive for P. ramorum. The nursery promptly destroyed all host plants, soil, and pots within a 2 meter radius of the detection.

In August DATCP sent a media advisory asking consumers to check recently purchased host plants for disease – which yielded no additional positives.

Inspectors have since followed up on additional trace forward notices for potentially infected knockout roses, lilacs, viburnums and rhododendrons that were shipped into Wisconsin during the 2019 growing season. We are hopeful that the regulatory actions and outreach prevent the establishment of Sudden Oak Death in Wisconsin, which has killed millions of oaks on the west coast and larch in the United Kingdom. For more information see: http://www.suddenoakdeath.org/.

Licensing and Inspection Numbers from 2019

License Totals
- There were 583 nursery grower, 1,139 nursery dealer and 362 Christmas tree grower licenses issued. Of these, there were 42 new nursery grower, 93 new nursery dealer and 30 new Christmas tree grower licenses issued.
- 18 nursery grower, 33 nursery dealer and 15 Christmas tree grower licenses marked out of business.
- 7 nursery growers, 6 nursery dealers and no Christmas tree growers had expired licenses and did not renew.

Inspections
- 403 of the 914 (44%) fields of licensed nursery growers were inspected this year.
- 547 of the 2,558 (21%) licensed nursery dealer sites were inspected this year.
- 480 of the 860 (56%) fields of licensed Christmas tree growers were inspected this year.