

April 16, 2010

# Nursery Certification Update

## **ATTENTION: All Certified Nursery Growers in BC**

**All Nurseries currently certified in the *P. ramorum* Nursery Certification Program now have the Option to be 'Grandfathered' into the Domestic Phytosanitary Certification Program, now called "Clean Plants"**

### **Current Situation**

Nurseries presently in the *P. ramorum* Nursery Certification Program have the option to remain solely in the *P. ramorum* program until March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012. As of this date, the *P. ramorum* program will be integrated as a module of the Clean Plants Program (formally called DPCP) and no longer will be offered as a stand-alone program.

The *P. ramorum* Nursery Certification Program will continue to run as it is until March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012, with annual audits and program requirements as in previous years. The BCLNA will continue to coordinate *P. ramorum* audits and sampling to minimize costs to nursery growers.

### **New Developments**

- The name of the Domestic Phytosanitary Certification Program (DPCP) has been changed to "Clean Plants". Nursery growers have expressed that "DPCP" was a bit of a tongue twister and that the program name should be more reflective of the program's benefits.

- Since BC nurseries certified in the *P. ramorum* Program are already implementing many of the processes and measures required for the Clean Plants Program, including inspections, monitoring and record keeping,

**It was determined by CNCI that, under certain criteria, *P. ramorum* Certified Nurseries should have the option of becoming certified as “Phase I Clean Plants”.**

Nurseries wanting to becoming certified as **Phase 1 Clean Plants** must fulfill the following criteria:

1. The nursery must currently be in good standing in the *P. ramorum* Certification Program with no outstanding issues, and with all fees paid and up-to-date.
2. At least one staff person must have completed the Clean Plants (DPCP) Workshop; either at a previous ‘live’ workshop, or by watching the Workshop DVD. (DVD can be ordered through [www.cleanplants.ca](http://www.cleanplants.ca) or by calling Trina at the BCLNA office)
3. The nursery must complete the Clean Plants Application Form and submit it to CNCI Administrators at the BCLNA office, along with payment of the Clean Plants Application Fee. (Or you may pay by credit card by calling the BCLNA office.) The Clean Plants Application Form can be found at [www.cleanplants.ca](http://www.cleanplants.ca) under “How Can I Apply”.
4. **The nursery must also agree to complete and submit their Clean Plants Manuals to CNCI Administrators at the BCLNA office by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010 in order to retain their certified status as Phase 1 Clean Plants.**
5. CNCI Administration will review each application to ensure that the above conditions are fulfilled before approval for **Phase 1 Clean Plants** certification will be granted to the nursery.
6. CNCI Administration will advise the nursery when it has been approved and provide the nursery with their unique Clean Plants certification number and Phase 1 Clean Plants stamp.

### **Phase 1 Clean Plants**

- Phase 1 Clean Plants Nurseries are enabled to ship to fully-certified Clean Plants (DPCP) Nurseries, *P. ramorum* Certified Nurseries, and municipalities as certified stock, thus eliminating the Clean Plants (DPCP) program requirement of a 120-day residency that accompanies uncertified stock.

- Therefore, in order to ship to as many customers as possible, it is in your best interest to apply for Phase 1 Clean Plants **as soon as possible**.
- Applications for Phase 1 Clean Plants will **no longer be accepted after October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010**. After this date, the 'grandfathering clause' will no longer be in effect and nurseries will need to apply for full Clean Plants certification in the standard way as outlined on [www.cleanplants.ca](http://www.cleanplants.ca).
- Phase 1 Clean Plants nurseries will have their usual *P. ramorum* Audit in 2010 with no separate audit required for the Clean Plants program.
- Nurseries must complete and submit their Clean Plants Manual to CNCI Administrators at the BCLNA office between June 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

**Note that it may take up to 2 weeks to complete a Clean Plants Manual, and that manuals may be required to undergo several revisions before they are acceptable for approval.**

- Nurseries must have a *CNCI-approved* Clean Plants Manual before March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011.
- Nurseries that do not fulfill the above requirements will have their Phase 1 Clean Plants certification revoked and the nursery will revert back to *P. ramorum* Certified status only. The nursery will then need to reapply for full Clean Plants certification in the standard way as outlined on [www.cleanplants.ca](http://www.cleanplants.ca).
- Phase 1 Clean Plants nurseries will have a combined *P. ramorum* and Clean Plants audit between June and November 2011. The BCLNA will coordinate these "combined" audits along with *P. ramorum* audits (non-Phase 1 nurseries) during this time to minimize costs to nursery growers.
- Phase 1 Clean Plants certification will expire March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

## ***P. ramorum* Certification Program (in the Interim)**

### **Program Fees**

One of the issues raised at recent meetings regarding the *P. ramorum* program was the sustainability of the program. The program has not been self-sustaining; it has been subsidized by funding received in 2005 to initiate the program, and as of December 2009, the reserve has run out. It was decided by growers that the fees should be raised to ensure the *P. ramorum* program continues to serve BC growers and their customers.

The fee to participate in the *P. ramorum* Certification Program will rise as of April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010 as follows:

***P. ramorum* Certification Program Fee:**

- \$250 for BCLNA members
- \$500 for non-members

Nurseries that have already paid their *P. ramorum* fees for 2010 will be invoiced the new fee in late 2010 for the 2011 year.)

Nurseries participating in the Clean Plants program will **not** be required to pay an additional fee for the *P. ramorum* portion once they have become Phase 1 Clean Plants certified. Their fee will remain as per the Clean Plants annual fee schedule on [www.cleanplants.ca](http://www.cleanplants.ca).

### **Sampling & Testing**

Sampling & testing costs have also been revised. In past years when all nurseries participating in the program were sampled, about 8,000 samples were collected and processed annually. In 2010, it is anticipated that the number of samples to be collected will only be about 400—a huge drop in volume, but with a higher price tag because of the low numbers.

### **Sampling and Testing and Visual Inspection Fees as of April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010:**

**Sampling and Testing Fees:**

- Cost per sample for collection: \$12.00
- Cost per sample for testing: \$15.00

New nurseries still require 40 samples for the first two years in the program.

Sampling and testing following a **failed audit**:

- Will be limited to the five high risk host plants unless there are symptomatic low risk or non-host plants present.
- Sampling numbers will be based on the number of high risk host plants present: one composite sample taken for every 2,000 high risk host plants, with a minimum of 5 samples to a maximum of 40 samples per facility.

**For any nursery requiring less than 20 samples, a Lab Processing Fee of \$100 per nursery will apply.**

**Visual Inspection Fees:**

- Visual inspection when samples are also taken – acreage \$3.00 per acre
- Visual inspection with samples taken – greenhouse \$3.00/1000 sq ft of glass
- Visual inspections – no samples taken – acreage \$5.00 per acre
- Visual inspections – no samples taken – greenhouse \$5.00/1000 ft of glass.

There will be a minimum charge of \$150 for visual inspections where there are no samples taken.



For more information on the *P. ramorum* and Clean Plants programs, visit [www.cleanplants.ca](http://www.cleanplants.ca).

For further program details, please contact Trina Tang, Nursery Certification Coordinator at [ttang@bclna.com](mailto:ttang@bclna.com); or 604-574-7772 ext. 102; or Toll Free (in BC only) 1-800-421-7963 ext. 102.