

Sudden Oak Death Outreach in Sonoma County Final Report, June 2010-May 2011

USDA Forest Service, S&PF, Grant #10-DG-11052021-222
Prepared by Lisa Bell and Paul Vossen, UCCE Sonoma County

This report describes how objectives were met in year two of the Sonoma County Sudden Oak Death Outreach Program. The two objectives were: to further develop local SOD outreach to serve county needs; and, to demonstrate and teach SOD management techniques. These objectives were accomplished with ongoing training for the MGs, determining content of the information to provide to the public, and developing, publicizing and giving presentations of this information.

Fifteen UC Master Gardener SOD Specialists (MG specialists) and the Project Coordinator (PC) participated in the program. They directly contacted 3,650 people in their SOD educational activities between June 2010 and May 2011. The volunteer group devoted 56 hours/month to SOD training and educational outreach. The Project Coordinator spent an average of 17 hours/week on this program.

Presentations: Educational presentations are the main tool for educating the public in this program. In order to give an informative and useful presentation, two MGs specialists developed a presentation that provides direction to residents on prevention and management of SOD infestation (sanitation, Agri-Fos® treatment demonstration, bay removal), biology of *Phytophthora ramorum* (how infection occurs, secondary infections), as well as general oak tree health. It can be presented in PowerPoint presentation or instead, using large-format poster illustrations. A typical SOD presentation is two hours long plus 30 minutes of questions, and is given by two or three MG specialists working as a team.

This year the MG specialists gave 12 presentations. One was for the UC Master Gardeners in Mendocino County, reflecting our interest in introducing this program to other counties infested by SOD. They also presented the program to a group of students in the Santa Rosa Junior College Integrated Pest Management class. Five presentations were given at public libraries, three were for garden clubs, and one presentation was given at a monthly meeting of the local chapter of the California Native Plant Society. Most presentations are accompanied by a lively 30-minute question & answer time.



Master Gardener SOD Specialists measure tanoaks at Austin Creek State Recreation Area as part of a tanoak study.

SOD Blitz: Dr. Garbelotto spent a day in June with the MG SOD specialists and 31 members of the general public talking about the results of the 2010 Sonoma County SOD blitz. Topics covered included SOD symptom recognition, Agri-Fos® treatment, disease spread in Sonoma County, and the roles that rainfall and air temperature play in disease spread. In April 2011, Dr. Garbelotto returned to prepare and train the MG Specialists for the 2011 Blitz.

Master Gardener Desk and Information tables: An information table staffed by UC Master Gardeners was set up at two outdoor

events in addition to the information tables at weekly farmers markets throughout the county. Staffing the UCCE MG information desk (MG

desk) continued 30 hours each week, with MG specialists or the Project Coordinator responding to questions about SOD. At the MG desk, they answer questions from the public that walk-in to the office and also questions they receive by email via the Sonoma County MG website.

Outreach

Date	Description of Outreach	People contacted
6/5/2010	Petaluma Library presentation	17
6/6/2010	Bloomin' Backyards county-wide educational garden tour	1,549
6/19/2010	Dr. Garbelotto speaks about SOD blitz results	31
7/24/2010	Presentation to Mendocino County MGs	22
8/28/2010	Sebastopol Library presentation	15
9/11/2010	Guerneville Library presentation	5
10/7/2010	Sebastopol Chamber of Commerce Community Fair	57
11/16/2010	California Native Plant Society meeting	34
11/20/2010	Sonoma Community Center presentation	20
3/5/2011	Presentation at Sebastopol Library	21
3/8/2011	Presentation to Santa Rosa Junior College Integrated Pest Mgmt Class	39
3/24/2011	Presentation to Rohnert Park Garden Club	27
3/28/2011	Presentation to Santa Rosa Garden Club	46
4/27/2011	Presentation to Cloverdale Garden Club	51
5/6/2011	Presentation at UCCE office	12
ongoing	SOD questions answered by MG specialists at information desk at Sonoma County UCCE office, 6 hrs/day, 5 days/week.	38
ongoing	Farmers' Markets in Cotati, Healdsburg, Oakmont, Occidental, Petaluma, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol & Sonoma	1,666
Total contacts:		3,650

Training: The MG volunteers could not have accomplished this without putting in the time and energy to learn the subject. In addition to in-house trainings, the following trainings took place (see Training table): Dr. Garbelotto of UC Berkeley spoke to MG specialists and SOD blitz participants about SOD and the results of the April Sonoma County SOD Blitz; 3 MGs and the PC attended an oak seminar at the Napa UCCE; 6 MGs and the PC attended the COMTF annual meeting in San Rafael; the PC attended an oak woodland workshop in Santa Rosa; 4 MG specialists and the PC attended a Santa Rosa seminar about Sonoma County oak woodlands; one MG specialist tuned into the COMTF SOD webinar.

In addition, six MG Specialists participated in the first year of a multi-year study to track SOD infection on individual tanoaks in a study developed by Chris Lee, UCCE Humboldt County. On 11/8/2010, Lee trained the MG group at Austin Creek State Recreation Area, on symptom recognition, disease spread in a redwood/tanoak forest, recent studies in Humboldt County on SOD and fire, and SOD management in Humboldt forests. Data for the study was collected on 11/8 and 11/30. MG specialists recorded symptom locations on tanoak sprouts in ten study plots.

Project Coordinator activities: The project coordinator provided training and coordinated training activities for the group. See list of trainings. She works with the MGs specialists to shape their SOD

presentation, and monitor the content of the information given to the public. She also attended a three-day Forest Pest Workshop in Santa Rosa conducted jointly by the USDA Forest Service and Calfire.

Other tasks include fielding phone calls and emails from the public that the MG Specialists are not able to address. This past year she spoke with an average of three people/month by phone, two people/month by email, and three people/month as walk-ins to the UCCE office. I made six field visits.

Purchases: This grant provided the MG specialists with a laptop, software, and projector for giving SOD presentations and several laminated posters for use in outdoor presentations. USDA funds also allowed the MGs to attend SOD trainings: San Rafael COMTF meeting, Austin Creek Study with Chris Lee, and an Oak Seminar in Napa.

Training

Date	Description of Training
6/1/2010	Sonoma County Oak Woodlands workshop
6/9-10/2010	COMTF Annual Meeting in San Rafael
6/19/2010	Dr. Garbelotto speaking about SOD blitz results
7/15/2010	MG activity planning meeting
7/22/2010	Presentation development and practice
8/12/2010	MG planning meeting/training
8/17/2010	Presentation development and practice
9/9/2011	Presentation development and practice
10/28/2010	Oak woodland lecture, Arthur Dawson
10/28/2010	Program development meeting
11/8/2010	Austin Creek Tanoak sprout study with Chris Lee, UCCE Humboldt
11/19/2010	Presentation development and practice
11/30/2010	Austin Creek Tanoak sprout study
11/27/2010	Presentation development and practice
1/20/2011	Planning meeting
2/25/2011	Training/planning meeting
3/2/2011	Presentation training
3/4/2011	SOD Blitz planning
3/9/2011	SOD Blitz planning
3/25/2011	Oak seminar at Napa UCCE
4/21/2011	Planning/training meeting
4/21/2011	Field visit
4/29/2011	Planning/training meeting
5/6/2011	Presentation practice & discussion of content
5/16/2011	Blitz training meeting with Matteo Garbelotto
5/20/2011	Blitz planning meeting
5/25/2011	COMTF SOD Webinar