

# Sudden Oak Death Outreach in Sonoma County

## Interim report for June-December 2011

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**The Sonoma County UC Master Gardeners SOD Specialists** (MG specialists) directly contacted 3,454 people in their SOD educational activities between June and January 2010. The group devoted 71 man hours/month to SOD special training and educational outreach. Three accomplishments that stand out from the past seven months are:

- MG specialists developed an educational presentation that can be done with a computer or without, that is split in sections so that the presentation can be easily be shared by 2-3 presenters, and that addresses the most important issues.
- MG specialists introduced their SOD education program to the Mendocino UC Master Gardeners.
- MG specialists received two days of field training with Chris Lee, Humboldt UCCE, and Lisa Bell when they participated in Lee's tanoak sprout study.

### 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 speaking 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
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
<b>Total contacts:</b>		<b>3,454</b>

SOD educational presentations were made at six public meetings. An information table staffed by UC Master Gardeners was set up at two special outdoor events and the weekly farmers markets and staffing of UCCE MG information desk continued, where MGs respond to questions

and provide appropriate literature. In addition, on 6/19, 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.

People contacted through outreach included the general public, the Mendocino County Master Gardeners, and members of the local chapter of the California Native Plant Society. The Mendocino MGs and the Native Plant Society meetings were part of our push this year to reach out to new audiences. The Mendocino MGs were considering adopting this educational program model for their own county.

## Training

Date	Description of Training
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 activity planning meeting
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 with Lisa Bell
11/27/2010	Presentation development and practice

**Presentation development and practice:** A central part of the program is to present scientific material to non-scientists. MG Specialists regularly practice their presentation and target it to the upcoming audience by adding, subtracting and otherwise tweaking it. Presentations are usually carried out in teams of 2 or 3 MGs. Teams get together before each presentation to practice and ensure it goes smoothly.

**SOD Blitz:** Dr. Garbelotto spent a half-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. Topic 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.

**Tanoak sprout study:** 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 Co. 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. They will return to these plots to collect data for the next two years.