

2026 SOD BLITZ

May 1st – May 5th

Sudden Oak Death (SOD), a serious exotic disease, is threatening the survival of tanoak and several oak species in coastal forests of California, between Del Norte and Monterey Counties. The disease spreads during wet years on leaves of California bay laurels and tanoaks.

The presence of SOD symptomatic bay leaves generally precedes oak infections. SO timely detection of the disease on bay laurel leaves is key. SOD blitzes inform and educate the community about SOD, get local citizen scientists involved in detecting the disease on bay laurel and tanoak leaves, and produce detailed local maps of disease distribution. Additionally, the samples collected during the SOD blitzes allow for genetic screening to detect if a new and more aggressive variant of the disease is present. Given the late rainfall in 2026, SOD is expected to be spreading and may have arrived at a site near you.

Currently we do not have SOD on vegetation in San Luis Obispo County but we it is very close and surveying symptomatic bay laurels is critical so we can act promptly if found. If you want to be part of the solution, become a volunteer at one of the 2026 SOD Blitzes: schedule, locations, and other info at sodblitz.org

Please register with us locally in order to provide enough collecting packet

Registration: [SLO County SOD BLITZ](#)



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- The training can be done anytime at www.sodblitz.org and packets will be available for pick up and drop off at San Luis Obispo Agricultural Commissioners Offices at Templeton and San Luis Obispo.

San Luis Obispo SOD BLITZ - 2026

- **Online Training** – www.sodblitz.org
- **Packet Pickup & Drop-off Locations:**
 - San Luis Obispo Agricultural Commissioner’s Office – 2156 Sierra Way # A, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. Drive around to the parking lot in the back. Follow signs and look for plastic bin near back door by the picnic table on the Johnson Ave side of the building.
 - Hours: Friday, May 1st after 1:00PM through Tuesday morning, May 5th at 10:00AM – Available ALL HOURS.
 - San Luis Obispo Agriculture Department in Templeton - 350 N Main St, Templeton, CA 93465. Bin will be located outside by the front doors.
 - Hours: Friday, May 1st after 1:00PM through Tuesday morning, May 5th at 10:00AM – Available ALL HOURS.
- **Collecting** – Saturday, Sunday & Monday – May 2, 3, 4. All of the materials necessary for the training and the collecting will be provided.

PACKETS WILL BE PICKED UP AT EACH LOCATION
BY 10:00AM ON TUESDAY May 5th