

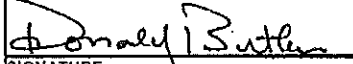
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SUBSTANTIVE POLICY STATEMENT

SP 08-02, Ozonium Root Rot Certification: Procedures for Arizona Nurseries

A.R.S. § 41-1091(B) Notice

This substantive policy statement is advisory only. A substantive policy statement does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal procedures of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules made in accordance with the Arizona administrative procedure act. If you believe that this substantive policy statement does impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties you may petition the agency under Arizona Revised Statutes section 41-1033 for a review of the statement.

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| ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE <u>SUBSTANTIVE POLICY STATEMENT</u> Plant Services Division OZONIUM ROOT ROT CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR ARIZONA NURSERIES | DIVISION: PSD |
| | PROGRAM: Quarantine |
| | POLICY: 08-02 |
| |  SIGNATURE |
| | May 5, 2005 EFFECTIVE DATE |

1. Substantive Policy Statement

A person may submit an application to obtain Special Nursery Stock Inspection Certification as provided in R3-4-301 subsection (C) for a location to meet California's entry requirements for ozonium root rot (ORR). Certification may be based on the use of approved indicator plants to detect *Phymatotrichum omnivorum* in the soil of the applicant's property, or the use of approved barriers and planting media for container-grown nursery stock on the applicant's property. Locations certified prior to the effective date of this substantive policy statement are exempt from these provisions with the exception of paragraph (3)(C).

2. AUTHORITY

A.R.S. § 3-201.01 (A) (5) Associate director; powers and duties

R3-4-301 (C) Nursery Certification

3. PROCEDURE

A. Option 1 is based on the use of a highly susceptible indicator plant planted throughout the applicant's property. An exception is made for nursery stock grown on the Yuma Mesa in Yuma County, paragraph 4 (A)(6).

1. California approves the use of alfalfa, cotton, and rose as indicator plants. The Department will forward to the California Department of Food and Agriculture requests to use other possible indicator plants.
2. The Department requires that approved indicator plants be planted on either a 25-foot or a 40-foot grid throughout the applicant's property.
3. The length of time necessary to certify the applicant's property is dependent upon the planting density. An inspector will inspect the applicant's indicator plants at least three times a year, when symptoms of *Phymatotrichum omnivorum* are most likely to be present, for two consecutive years if the indicator plants are on a 25-foot grid and for three consecutive years if the indicator plants are on a 40-foot grid.
4. The Department will suspend the inspection process or deny certification if the applicant:

- a. Fails to maintain the viability of the indicator plants throughout the two or three year inspection period, or
 - b. Fails to maintain the original spacing of the indicator plants throughout the two or three year inspection period or,
 - c. Removes dead or dying indicator plants from the property without the Department's approval.
5. The Department will deny certification if ORR is detected on the applicant's property at any time during the inspection process. The detection of ORR anywhere in a legal section of land will eliminate the entire section for future applications for certification based on indicator crops.
6. Exemption: Nursery stock grown on the Yuma Mesa in Yuma County
- a. The Department will exempt the need for an applicant to plant indicator plants or use barriers (Option 2) to certify property determined by a Department inspection to be on the Yuma Mesa.
 - b. The Department may discontinue this exemption upon the detection of ORR anywhere on the Yuma Mesa.
- B. Option 2 is based on the applicant's use of an approved growing media in container nursery stock, and the use of approved barriers beneath containers and growing media piles.
- 1. The Department requires the use of approved growing media in container nursery stock and may require product labels and other documentation to determine the contents, the identity, or the origin of the media. The Department approves the following types of media:
 - a. Soil originating from property certified free of ORR by the Department
 - b. Soil-less growing media
 - c. Soil that is steam pasteurized at 160⁰ – 180⁰ F. for 30 minutes
 - 2. The Department requires the use of an approved barrier beneath the applicant's container nursery stock to prevent root penetration into, and contamination with, the uncertified soil in the applicant's nursery. The Department approves the following barriers:
 - a. Woven polypropylene weed barriers
 - b. Concrete slabs
 - c. Raised benches, platforms, or elevated containers
 - d. Gravel, a minimum of two inches deep
 - 3. The Department requires that the applicant store growing media piles on a concrete slab to prevent contamination with the uncertified soil in the nursery.

4. Upon receipt of an application a Department inspector will visit the applicant's nursery to verify compliance with Option 2 criteria.
5. The Department will suspend the inspection process or deny certification if the applicant fails to use only approved growing media or fails to place nursery stock containers and pre-mixed growing media on approved barriers.

C. Maintaining certification

1. The Department requires that a person who obtains ORR certification require in-state nursery stock vendors to supply a Department-issued ORR certificate for each incoming shipment.
2. ORR certification is valid for one year from the issue date unless the Department suspends or revokes it earlier. A person may apply for recertification as provided in R3-4-301(E).
3. The Department may not renew a person's certification if the acreage on the application is greater than the acreage that the Department originally certified, until the person obtains certification for the increased acreage.
4. The Department requires a person who obtains certification based on method of growing to comply with Option 2 criteria and to maintain the condition of barriers and the use of approved media throughout the certification period.
5. The Department will monitor compliance with conditions of this substantive policy statement, and may suspend or revoke a person's ORR certification if the person misuses a certificate or fails to comply with certification criteria, or if the Department detects *Phymatotrichum omnivorum* on the person's property.