



Date: February 3, 2022

To: Chapter Council of the California Native Plant Society

RE: REPORT BY THE AD HOC PHYTOPHTHORA COMMITTEE ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2021

Committee Members

- Cathy Capone, Alta Peak Chapter
- Susan Frankel, East Bay Chapter
- Steven Goetz, Willis Linn Jepson Chapter
- Janell Hillman, Santa Cruz Chapter
- Larry Levine, Chapter Council
- Vivian Neou, Santa Clara Valley Chapter
- Cris Sarabia, South Coast Chapter
- Bill Waycott, San Luis Obispo Chapter
- Betty Young, Milo Baker Chapter
- Andrea Williams, CNPS staff liaison

The declared purposes of the Committee are as follows:

- Draft a CNPS policy on Phytophthora and append accepted methods to prevent and control infections by Phytophthora for review by the Chapter Council Policy Committee (completed in 2015);
- *Develop actions to minimize pathogens in native plant stock used in habitat restoration projects;* and
- Develop actions to minimize pathogens in CNPS plant sale stock.

The Committee met three times during 2021, and would like to report on the following accomplishments. Questions on the report or the Committee's work can be directed to Steven Goetz at sgoet@sbcglobal.net.

1) Monitored development of the accreditation programs that support production of *Phytophthora*-free plants for habitat restoration projects.

a) [The Accreditation to Improve Restoration and Native Plant Nursery Stock Cleanliness \(AIR\) Program](#)

This pilot program started in 2018 with funding from several public agencies. It is now sponsored by the UC Davis, Department of Plant Pathology. Over 20 nurseries and greenhouses throughout the state are participating in this voluntary program, which has the goal to protect native vegetation and habitats by ensuring that nursery stock for habitat restoration projects does not serve as a source of *Phytophthora* introductions. The [BMPs](#) those participating nurseries follow was developed by the [Working Group for Phytophthoras in Native Habitats](#). Research on the efficacy of the recommended BMPs was published on September 13, 2021 in the journal, [Plant Health Progress](#). Click [here](#) for a free early view of the research.

- b) Program on [Best Management Practices \(BMPs\) for Nurseries](#).
This program is part of the Nursery Certification Program of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). The goal of this CDFA nursery certification program is to promote the use of BMPs to give nurseries a higher level of confidence that their operations are reducing the introduction and spread of diseases and pests. The program is operated in partnership with the [CDFA Plant Pest Diagnostic Center](#) and the [National Ornamental Research Site at the Dominican Nursery of California](#). CDFA and NORS-DUC developed the [BMPs for the program](#). Research on the efficacy of this program's BMPs has not been published.
- 2) **Co-sponsored a [Native Plant Buy-in Webinar](#) for CNPS nurseries and chapters.** Over 70 people participated in the Zoom event. Click [here](#) to watch of video of from the event.
- 3) **Monitored implementation of the Governor's Executive Order N-82-20 on the [California Biodiversity Initiative](#),**
This initiated began with Governor Brown in 2017 and includes the *Pathways to 30x30 California Strategy* and the *Natural Working Lands and Climate Smart Strategy*. Both strategies call for expanding the number of habitat restoration projects throughout the state.
- 4) **Participated in Phytophthoras in Native Habitats Work Group [meeting](#) on September 23.**
Presentations included: 1) Progress on *Phytophthora* prevention on lavender and other ornamentals in the Southeastern U.S., 2) Results of Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District *Phytophthora* study, 3) Management of Phytophthora and Pests, 4) Hot Topics: heat treatment alternatives for eliminating *Phytophthora* in nurseries and field sites, 5) Evaluating the efficacy of *Phytophthora* detection methods to support restoration nurseries best management practices, 6) *Phytophthora* species repeatedly introduced in Northern California through restoration projects can spread into adjacent sites,7) Round Robin: Pre-delivery of Testing Contracted Nursery Stock prior to delivery and outplanting, Enhanced BMPs for managing plant pathogens on the Los Gatos Creek Watershed, and Update on Accreditation to Improve Restoration (AIR) program.
- 5) **Received Chapter Council support to transition from an ad hoc committee to a Standing Committee.**
On December 4, 2021, the Chapter Council unanimously agreed to our request to transition to a Standing Committee, and referred the name of the committee back to the Ad Hoc Committee. (The Committee met on February 3, 2020 and supports the new name of "*Committee to Promote Healthy Plants and Habitats*").
- 6) **Goals for 2022:**
 - a) Achieve support for a voluntary nursery accreditation program that excludes *Phytophthora* from plant materials used for habitat restoration.
 - b) Re-establish a website to provide online information and resources on healthy plants and habitats.
 - c) Sponsor a workshop, program or tour at CNPS Conservation Conference in San Jose.
 - d) Identify \$25,000 to offer 2nd grant cycle for CNPS Chapter Nursery Upgrade Program