

Summary of the results of the 2024 Sudden Oak Death (SOD) blitzes

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Summary Statistics

- A total of 28 Blitzes from Oregon border to San Luis Obispo
- Del Norte (Oregon border) the Northernmost
- San Luis Obispo (Santa Barbara border), Southernmost
- 294 collectors, (was 233 in 2023)
- 515 participants (was 408 in 2023)
- Trees surveyed: 23,644 (was 10,291 in 2023)
- Acreage covered by survey: estimated 300,000 acres
- Trees sampled: 1,848 (was 1901 in 2023)
- Statewide Rate of Positive trees: 17.2% (was 8.8% in 2023)
- Statewide True Infection rate: 5.7% (was 2.7% in 2023)
- Oak mortality/symptoms: 11.5% (was 11.8% in 2023)

Important results

1. Infection levels are on the rise statewide and can be defined as intermediate, possibly allowing for oak infection with a rainy 2024-25 Winter.

2. A variant of the SOD pathogen, called "NA2 lineage" and possibly more aggressive than the current "NA1 lineage", was detected in five woodlands outbreaks: 1- North of Woodside (San Mateo CO.), 2- Burlingame Hills (San Mateo CO.), 3- Tilden East Bay Regional Park (two locations, Alameda CO.), John Muir National Monument (Contra Costa CO.). Removal of bay trees infected by NA2 may be a useful management option to curtail its spread. NA2 seems to be more infectious than NA1 in warmer temperatures, an obvious problem for California, whose interior has so far been spared by SOD due to warmer temperatures. It is also possible (and likely) that NA1 plus NA2 together in coastal areas may cause more oak and tanoak mortality. We could see a new different wave of SOD due to NA2. Some lab tests suggest NA2 it is more virulent and infectious than NA1.

3. Outbreaks in Northern Sonoma County and inland Mendocino County were recorded in 2024. These are normally detected during high and/or intermediate outbreak phases.
4. Sonoma and Marin Counties are experiencing a significant number of outbreaks.
5. Napa Valley in a corridor along the river: SOD pathogen undetected.
6. No SOD pathogen in San Francisco and in East Bay Nursery , but it was present, even in urban areas on the western slopes of the Oakland-Berkeley hills.
7. No SOD pathogen in warmer areas of Southern Alameda and Eastern Contra Costa Counties.
8. Peninsula outbreaks are active from Burlingame Hills to Saratoga, with some positives East of 280.
9. New outbreaks in coastal areas East and West of Santa Cruz and North of Watsonville.
10. In Carmel Valley, several outbreaks at the edges or outside of canyons, in residential areas and further East than normal, indicative of an active phase and posing a threat to oak if rains arrive.
11. All SOD Blitz samples from San Luis Obispo CO. are still negative.
12. Del Norte positive SOD Blitzes identified both the EU1 and the NA1 lineages.