

# Rhododendron Removal: Ramorum disease

We are removing Rhododendron in this area to prevent the spread of a highly contagious plant disease. *Phytophthora ramorum* can breed on Rhododendron plants. Once infected, plants can pass the disease on to other shrubs and trees, most of which will die.

We are working with **The Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera)** to remove any Rhododendron plant that can spread the disease.

Ramorum disease is caused by a fungus-like pathogen called *Phytophthora ramorum*. The pathogen is harmless to people and animals, but to help stop the disease spreading there are some simple guidelines that you should follow:

- Clean soil and mud from boots, shoes and bicycle wheels and tyres before leaving the woodland.
- Thoroughly wash shoes and bicycle wheels before visiting other woodlands, parks, gardens or garden centres.
- Avoid areas where plants are being removed and follow instructions on signs.
- Keep to marked paths.
- Keep dogs on leads.
- Do not remove any plant material, such as cuttings, from the woodland.