

WSU PUYALLUP HIGHLIGHT

April 28, 2006

New Sudden Oak Death research lab opens to address industry and community needs



(Infected Grand Fir
From CA test plot)



(Left to Right: Norm Dart, Jan Sittnick, Gil Dermott, Kathy Riley, Gary Chastagner, Annie DeBauw)



(Jon Newkirk and Dean Dan Bernardo
emerging from SOD chamber)

Sudden Oak Death is the common name for a disease caused by *Phytophthora ramorum*, a previously unknown and exotic plant pathogen. *P. ramorum* has killed hundreds of thousands of oak and tanoak trees in 14 coastal counties in California and been detected in 33 western Washington nurseries since 2003. The pathogen has a wide host range including Douglas-fir, grand fir, rhododendron, viburnum, big leaf maple, vine maple, madrone, pacific yew Salal, and other tree, shrub, and herbaceous plant species common in Washington forests.

In response to industry concerns, Washington State University built a new, quarter

million dollar biocontainment facility at WSU Puyallup. A reception and ribbon-cutting ceremony last week drew representatives from local and regional businesses, community leaders, congressional representatives and agricultural groups. This new facility will greatly increase the capacity of WSU to address critical research questions relating to the establishment, spread and management of this pathogen. Led by Gary Chastagner, the team includes research technologists Annie DeBauw and Kathy Riley, technical assistant Jan Sittnick, plant technologist Gil Dermott, and education coordinator Norm Dart who has developed a *P. ramorum* education program based at WSU Puyallup with funding provided by the USDA Forest Service.



(Chastagner, Bernardo, Riley
and Plant Pathology Chair Tim Murray)

WSU Puyallup: Solutions for the Region- Programs for Its People.

Weekly Highlights is provided by the people and programs of WSU Puyallup. To include a highlight in an upcoming announcement, please contact either Tanyalee Erwin, terwin@wsu.edu, 253-445-4504, or Jon Newkirk, jnewkirk@wsu.edu, 253-445-4568. If your email is set to text messages only and you wish to see the graphical version of this Highlight, please email Tanyalee and she will send this Highlight as an attachment.