At a meeting with the Oregon Association of Nurserymen (OAN) members on Tuesday, Congressman Blumenauer listened as members raised questions and concerns about the economy, immigration reform, and the importance of continued federal funding for plant disease research. Blumenauer has strongly supported research funding for Sudden Oak Death Disease, and made this his top request in the Fiscal Year 2012 Agriculture appropriations letter sent out last month. He also discussed how “performance based regulations,” could be applied to help Oregon nurseries maintain a level playing field in other states’ markets, and encouraged OAN members to help with efforts to reform federal agriculture policy by cutting commodity subsidy programs and redirecting funding for research, marketing, conservation and specialty crop programs.