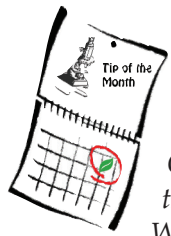


NPDN Outstanding Service Awards

- NPDN Outstanding Service Award
- NPDN Outstanding Team Service Award

And don't forget those "squashed bugs" and other strange sample submissions! New this year is the Rotten Tuber Award for samples that are strange or unique.



Timely Tips for Triage Time

Contributed by attendees at the 2010 NPDN Diagnostics Workshop held at Penn State

It's that time of year when a few tips like these may help with some of the mayhem in your triage lab:

- Get an inexpensive roll of craft paper to spread out on your table or workbench when working with 'dirty' plants or root systems; easy to wrap up and throw away when finished; also comes in handy as a temporary notepad. ~ *K. Ong*
- Use box lids or similar cardboard containers to contain dirt on roots or shed needles while examining plant samples. ~ *T. Creswell*
- Hang a whisk broom nearby to sweep counter/table tops into the waste basket ~ *T. Creswell*
- Keep a few corks for 'squashing' samples on slides – no finger smudge and spreads the pressure so fewer cover slips break. (Plastic cover slips will also break less easily while 'squashing.')
- Use pipette tip box bottoms to hold sample extraction bags, especially when you are dealing with a lot of ELISA samples at the same time. 1000ML pipette tip boxes are the same size as extraction bags. ~ *Raghuwinder 'Nick' Singh*

NPDN Rotten Tuber Award for Most Unique Sample Submission

1st, 2nd, 3rd, Honorable Mention

The deadline is **August 1, 2011**. Details can be found at www.npdn.org. Please take the time to recognize deserving individuals who have gone above and beyond to make the NPDN training and other activities great! 🌱

- Storing bacterial culture plates at 4 degrees C will slow down the growth over the weekend and give you more time to work with single colonies. Plates inoculated on Wednesday or Thursday can be stored at 4 degrees C over the weekend and can be used again on Monday. (This is only if you do not want to work on weekends!) ~ *Raghuwinder 'Nick' Singh*
- Use the finely tapered scalpel blades (with or without handle) as dissecting tools or to pick fungi off agar to transfer to a slide for microscopic examination. Allows for good motor control and easy to sterilize for re-use. ~ *L. Skoglund*
- Keep a white piece of laminated paper next to the scopes to put slides on for easy viewing while preparing mounts in a drop of water or for examining small pieces or root or plant. No need to worry about staining or contamination with the laminated sheet—easy to wipe off and disinfect. ~ *C. Smith*
- Wooden paint stirrers can be cut in length to fit your dissecting scope stage. The wood is soft and can be used as a cutting surface that will not dull your blade quality. (Plastic container tops also work.) ~ *T. Watson* 🌱

Diagnostic Updates