NPDN National Plant Diagnostic Network

NPDN News

Volume 3 Issue 7, July 2008

National Updates

NPDN Town Hall Meeting at 2008 APS Meeting

The NPDN Operations Committee will be hosting a town hall meeting on Monday July 28, 2008 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm at the 2008 APS Meeting in Minneapolis, MN in the Hennepin/Carver Rooms of the Hilton Minneapolis – Headquarters Hotel. This meeting is open to all.

Minneapolis, MN, site of the 2008 APS Meeting.

Topics for discussion and your input will include:

- Five Year Plan
- Lab Accreditation
- Data Sharing
- Interface with Research

Hope to see you there!

New! NPDN Exercise Resource Web Page Now Available

Chain of communication and custody standard operating procedures relating to NPDN exercises are now available on the NPDN web site on the "Exercise Resource Page." This web page is open to the public and does not require a username and password.

The types of documents to be included on this page will be expanded in the future on the new portal to include: state specific standard operating procedures, standard operating procedures communication flow charts and exercise input photosheets.

Issue Highlights:

CSREES EDUCATION RESEARCH EXTENSION USDA

Diagnostic Updates

Diagnostics Subcommittee Update

Karen L. Snover-Clift
Committee Chair
Cornell University
Department of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology

The NPDN diagnostics subcommittee held a conference call on July 17, 2008. During this meeting a number of issues were addressed. Please refer to the diagnostics subcommittee web page of the NPDN web site for complete minutes of this meeting (login and password required).

Topics of discussion included:

- Finalization of fall Beltsville-NPDN diagnostician training plans.
- Lab accreditation progress.
- National meeting update.
- NPDN events at APS.
    - Operations committee meeting.
    - Townhall meeting.
    - Informational booth.
- IT-Diagnosticians Meeting.
- Release of Elicitin real-time PCR protocol.

The next conference call will be held on Thursday, August 21, 2008.

Diagnostic Tip of the Month: Tool to Ease SCN Egg Extractions

Nancy Pataky
Plant Clinic Director
University of Illinois

Many diagnostic labs are involved in nematode extractions and population counts of plant parasitic nematodes. Soybean cyst nematode (SCN) is of major concern in the Midwest, so many soil assays in the Midwest involve SCN. In recent years the SCN population assessment has grown to include SCN egg counts, along with traditional cyst counts. Here is a tip to help ease the pain of manually grinding cysts for numerous samples.

A drill press has become a standard tool in plant clinics, not for wood working, but to help grind tissue quickly and effortlessly.

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A drill press is transformed to aid in grinding cysts of Soybean Cyst Nematode. Photo Nancy Pataky

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A wonderful little device, available through Agdia, Inc, can be attached to the drill press in a slot where the drill bit would otherwise be attached. The device has bearings on the end that is used to macerate tissue. Many of you are probably familiar with this device. A similar device, used to crush SCN cysts, is available through David Soh at Iowa State University. He has produced a simple rubber stopper grinder with a stem that fits into a drill press. He also makes a 60 mesh PVC sieve that fits the grinder. The image shows the stopper and the sieve next to the Agdia device, which is attached to a drill press.

The first step in grinding cysts is to recover cysts from the soil through wet sieving. These cysts are washed into the PVC sieve and ground with the rubber stopper over a 500 mesh sieve to catch the eggs that wash through the PVC sieve. Staining and counting eggs follows. This stopper is only $15.00 and the sieve is $20.00. Contact David Soh at dsoh@iastate.edu to place an order and to confirm current pricing.

Chrysanthemum White Rust Webinar

Washington, D.C. - ANLA and SAF join Yoder Brothers, Inc., Ball Horticultural Company and GroLink, the major U.S. propagation and breeding companies, in presenting an important opportunity for growers - a free, 30-minute educational Webinar on Chrysanthemum White Rust (CWR).

CWR is a quarantine-significant pest, so it's particularly important for growers to be aware of the steps they can take to avoid the disease in their fall chrysanthemum crops.

The session includes excellent photographs that teach growers how to recognize the symptoms of the disease. It also offers important advice on how to avoid White Rust in 2008 mum crops.

The Webinar will be held on several different days, at either 10:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m., so that growers can choose a session that best fits their schedule.

Chrysanthemum white rust pustule on mum. Photo John W. Dooley, USDA-APHIS-PPQ, www.ipmimages.org.

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Diagnostic Tip of the Month

Education and Training

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To register, click on the meeting date and time you wish to attend from the list below. The webinar takes about 30 minutes, with extra time allowed for questions afterwards.

Chrysanthemum White Rust Webinar Schedule
(Eastern Daylight Time)

- Thursday, July 31: 10:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 5: 10:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 12: 10:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m.

For additional information contact Craig Regelbrugge at ANLA: 202-789-2900; cregelbrugge@anla.org or Lin Schmale at SAF: 800-336-4743; lschmale@safnow.org

WPDN Offers Regional First Detector Newsletter

The WPDN now offers a quarterly newsletter to the over 3000 first detectors in the western region.

The WPDN first detector newsletter contains information on significant pests and diseases as well as reports and web sites from regional members.

The WPDN First Detector Newsletter can be accessed online at www.wpdn.org.

National Database

National Database Subcommittee Update

Karen L. Snover-Clift
Committee Chair
Cornell University
Department of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology

The NPDN national database subcommittee met on July 16, 2008 to continue our work on reviewing the massive EPA Pest and Host lists and revising guidelines for uploading documents that will clarify how sample diagnoses should be transmitted to the National Repository at Purdue University.

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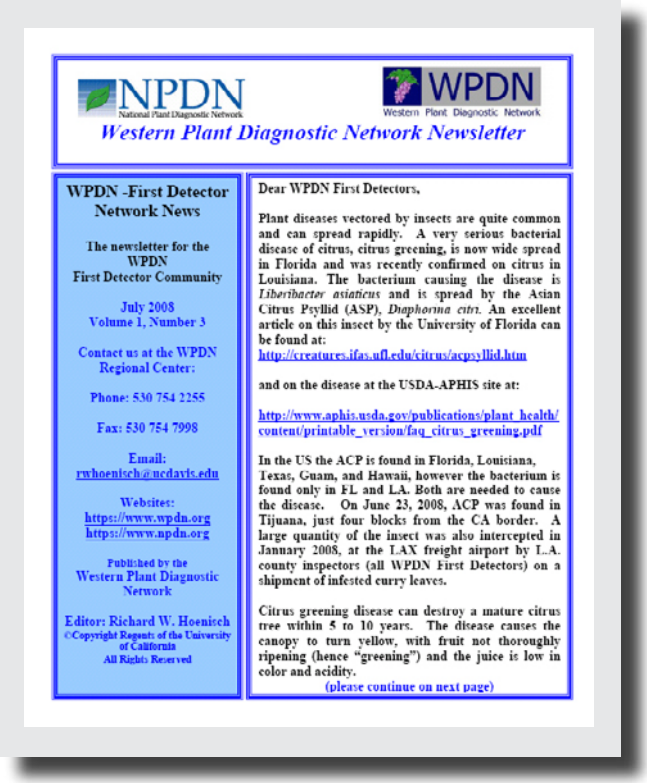

NPDN National Plant Diagnostic Network
WPDN Western Plant Diagnostic Network

Western Plant Diagnostic Network Newsletter

WPDN -First Detector Network News

The newsletter for the WPDN First Detector Community

July 2008
Volume 1, Number 3

Contact us at the WPDN Regional Center:

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Websites: https://www.wpdn.org https://www.npdn.org

Published by the Western Plant Diagnostic Network

Editor: Richard W. Hoenisch

Dear WPDN First Detectors,

Plant diseases vectored by insects are quite common and can spread rapidly. A very serious bacterial disease of citrus, citrus greening, is now wide spread in Florida and was recently confirmed on citrus in Louisiana. The bacterium causing the disease is *Liberibacter asiaticus* and is spread by the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ASP), *Diaphorina citri*. An excellent article on this insect by the University of Florida can be found at:
http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu/citrus/acpsyllid.htm

and on the disease at the USDA-APHIS site at:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/plant_health/content/printable_version/faq_citrus_greening.pdf

In the US the ACP is found in Florida, Louisiana, Texas, Guam, and Hawaii, however the bacterium is found only in FL and LA. Both are needed to cause the disease. On June 23, 2008, ACP was found in Tijuana, just four blocks from the CA border. A large quantity of the insect was also intercepted in January 2008, at the LAX freight airport by L.A. county inspectors (all WPDN First Detectors) on a shipment of infested curry leaves.

Citrus greening disease can destroy a mature citrus tree within 5 to 10 years. The disease causes the canopy to turn yellow, with fruit not thoroughly ripening (hence "greening") and the juice is low in color and acidity.

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During this meeting a number of issues were addressed. Please refer to the national database subcommittee web page of the NPDN web site for complete minutes of this meeting (login and password required).

Topics of discussion included:

- Discussed change submission requests.
- Reviewed fungal disease common names beginning with the letter J, K and L.

The next meeting will be held on August 20, 2008.

PDIS Update

PDIS Update: Multiple Lab Methods Now Available

The "Multiple Lab Methods" in PDIS which was announced in the April 2008 NPDN News is now available. Users are now able to choose more than one lab method for each sample diagnosis, most likely all methods used to make that diagnosis. This will be extremely helpful when generating time period reports because all lab methods utilized to make a diagnosis will be listed. Beginning in the reporting period of 2009, this information will be required on your Accomplishments Summary or End of Year reports. Samples uploaded to the National Repository will however only contain the most technologically advanced method utilized.

Regional Updates

Southern Region
Detection of Emerald Ash Borer in Virginia

Emerald ash borer, *Agrilus planipennis*. Photo Howard Russell, www.ipmimages.org.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the identification of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), in Fairfax County, Virginia, on July 9, 2008. This EAB detection is in close proximity to Dulles International Airport. The initial detection was made on July 7, 2008, by an employee from the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDF), who noticed several suspect EAB exit holes. The VDF informed the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) who, in turn, notified APHIS of the suspect EAB find.

On July 8, 2008, APHIS and VDACS personnel visited the suspect EAB site in Fairfax, Virginia. One partially emerged adult and two dead adult beetles were recovered and sent to an APHIS Identifier in Michigan, who confirmed their identity as EAB.

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Regional Updates

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In response to this detection, APHIS is working closely with the State of Virginia to carry out delimiting surveys around the initial detection site.

EAB is present in some parts of the United States. Currently, the entire States of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois are quarantined for EAB, together with portions of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the entirety of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, and Prince George's County in Maryland. Four counties in western Pennsylvania are also under quarantine and EAB was detected last year in one county in West Virginia.

For more information on this pest and its current detection, please visit on the web:

NAPPO Phytosanitary Alert System: Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) in Fairfax County, Virginia

Detections of Panicle Rice Mite, *Steneotarsonemus spinki*, in Lajas, Puerto Rico

On July 11, 2008, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) issued a Federal Domestic Quarantine Order to prevent the spread of Panicle Rice Mite, *Steneotarsonemus spinki* (PRM). Specifically, this Federal Order restricts the interstate movement of all *Oryzae* spp. plants or plant parts, including *O. sativa*, cultivated paddy rice, *O. latifolia* weedy red rice, and plants or plant parts of *Cyperus irea* originating from Puerto Rico.

The 2008 National PRM Survey conducted by APHIS's Plant Protection and Quarantine program and the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture (PRDA) confirmed the presence of PRM on May 20, 2008, during field sampling in Lajas. Detections were found at an educational facility, as well as a rice research center. Both facilities produce rice seed for research only, not consumption. APHIS notified PRDA of this confirmed detection and is currently conducting surveys to delimit the infestation.

The PRM is a serious rice pest. Yield losses can range from 30 to 90 percent.

For more information on this pest and its current detection, please visit on the web:

NAPPO Phytosanitary Alert System: Detections of Panicle Rice Mite, *Steneotarsonemus spinki*, in Lajas, Puerto Rico

Upcoming Events

National Events

July 26-30, 2008, Centennial APS/SON Joint Meeting, Minneapolis, MN

August 10-14, 2008, National Plant Board 2008 Annual Meeting, Solomons, Maryland

August 18-20, 2008, Mite Taxonomic Workshop, Gainesville, FL

November 16-19, 2008, ESA Annual Meeting, Reno, NV

March 24-26, 2009, Sixth International IPM Symposium, Portland, OR

December 6-10, 2009, NPDN National Meeting, Miami, FL

NPDN
National Plant Diagnostic Network

CSREES
EDUCATION • RESEARCH • EXTENSION
USDA

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