

National Updates

Programming Ideas Solicited for 2009 NPDN National Meeting

The Program Committee for the next NPDN National Meeting (likely to be scheduled in December, 2009 in Miami, FL) is soliciting ideas for program content. We have already received many good ideas from numerous NPDN members, as a result of a survey conducted by Clarissa Balbalian of Mississippi State University.



However, if you have programming ideas for sessions you would like to see at the meeting which you have not already submitted, please provide those to Paul Vincelli (pvincell@uky.edu)

by **May 28, 2008**. We want this to be the sort of meeting you want to come to.

Come Test Your Knowledge at the 2008 APS Meeting NPDN Booth!

In an effort to draw more people to the display booth, the NPDN will offer an interactive contest for participants at the

2008 APS Annual Meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota this summer. The contest consisting of a multimedia computer-based quiz will challenge participant's knowledge of the NPDN as well as significant and select pathogens and insects. Prizes will be awarded based on how well participants score on the quiz. Prizes may include: pocket tools, mugs, pens and luggage tags. We look forward to seeing you at the booth this summer!

Issue Highlights:

- ◆ Programming Ideas Solicited for National Meeting
- ◆ NPDN Booth at APS Meeting: Come Test Your Knowledge!
- ◆ Diagnostics Subcommittee Update
- ◆ Iowa State University Position Announcement
- ◆ Diagnostic Tip of the Month: Parafilm Dispenser
- ◆ Training Opportunity: Carabidae Short Course
- ◆ Volunteers Needed for Booth at NACAA Meeting
- ◆ NPDN Crop Biosecurity Online Training Officially Launched
- ◆ First Detector Training Opportunity
- ◆ PDIS Update: Improved Lab Methods
- ◆ National Database Subcommittee Updates
- ◆ National Database Trainings
- ◆ Regional Updates: NCPDN, NEPDN and SPDN



Diagnostic Updates

Diagnostics Subcommittee Update

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

Do you need to apply for or renew a diagnostic lab "unknown" permit?

Easy to follow "PPQ 526 ePermit Instruction - April 2008" are available on the diagnostics subcommittee page under the heading "Filing Cabinet."

The NPDN diagnostics subcommittee held a conference call on April 10, 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:

- Future Beltsville-NPDN diagnostician training:
 - need additional names by April 15th.
- Lab accreditation progress:
 - Auditor System Draft 1.0 available on the web site.
- Standard operating procedure news:
 - Release of updated Sudden Oak Death/Ramorum Blight SOP Version 1.0
 - Release of updated Soybean Rust SOP Version 2.2

-Craig Webb working on a Potato Cyst Nematode SOP
-Others needed:
* Philippine Downy Mildew of Corn –Jan Byrne
* Bacterial Leaf Streak of Rice –GPDN
* Citrus Variegated Chlorosis –Carrie Harmon

- Permit instructions update -Jan Byrne
- National meeting update
- Lepitoptera workshop planning- Joel Floyd and Amanda Hodges
- Input of diagnosticians on national IT issues-Eileen Luke and Mike Hill

The next conference call will be held on Thursday, May 8, 2008.

Iowa State University Plant Disease Diagnostician Position Announcement

The Department of Plant Pathology is seeking an Extension Program Specialist III to assist in operation of the statewide ISU Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic.

For more information on this position please visit on the web: [Employment Opportunities at Iowa State](#) and search under vacancies.

New!

Diagnostician Standard Operating Procedures Updates

The following NPDN Standard Operating Procedures have been updated recently:

Title	Date of Change	Version to Version
Sudden Oak Death (<i>P. ramorum</i>)	4/07/08	Draft 5.5 to Ver. 1.0
Soybean Rust (<i>P. pachyrhizi</i>)	4/15/08	Ver. 2.1 to Ver. 2.2

You can find these most recent versions on the diagnostics subcommittee page of the [NPDN web site](#).

Diagnostic Tip of the Month: Parafilm Dispenser

Julia W. Thompson
Missouri Department of Agriculture

A solution reservoir for an 8-channel pipetter makes a good dispenser for precut strips of Parafilm®. I discovered (by accident) that a few drops of 70% ethanol dripped on the top edge and allowed to dry will cause the paper to crinkle slightly and make it much easier to separate the film from the paper when you need it.



Reservoir holding Parafilm® strips. (Photo Julia W. Thompson)

Training Opportunity: The Natural History and Taxonomy of the Carabidae

Carabids are an abundant and diverse group of organisms that have much to teach us regarding the biology and ecology of insects and biological control agents. At this course, we will explore beginning carabid taxonomy (to the genus level for many common groups), collection methods, carabid structure and function as it pertains to feeding ecology, carabid defenses, and the effects of habitat management on carabid populations and conservation. The course is unit-based and very hands on, with each topic being overseen by a national expert.

Tentative cost per student is \$350

Class space is limited, and priority will

be given to students and amateurs.
Please contact Jonathan Lundgren (jonathan.lundgren@ars.usda.gov) by **May 15, 2008** if you are interested

Education and Training

When: June 22-25, 2008

Where: Oak Lake Field Station, Brookings County, South Dakota

Presented by:
• Midwest Biological Control Institute
• International Organization for Biological

Control- Nearctic Regional Section
• Midwestern Carabidologist's Working Group

Volunteers Needed for Booth at 2008 NACAA Meeting

This year's [NACAA meeting will be held July 13-17, 2008 in Greensboro, North Carolina](#). We will have a NPDN First Detector educational booth that will highlight the launch of the [Online Crop Biosecurity Program](#) and other NPDN resources available to educators.

The exhibit will be available during the following dates and times:

July 13, 2008: 1:00pm-6:30pm

July 14, 2008: 8:00am-6:00pm

July 15, 2008: 8:00am-6:00pm

Continued on page 4...

Education and Training

Continued from page 3...

If you are planning to attend the meeting and would be willing to volunteer a few hours of time at the booth, please contact Amanda Hodges achodges@ufl.edu.

NPDN Crop Biosecurity Online Training Officially Launched

We are pleased to announce the official launching of the National Plant Diagnostic Network's online training in Crop Biosecurity for First Detectors. The training was developed over a 4-year period by Gerald Holmes (NCSU), Howard Beck (UFL) and Gerry Snyder (KSU) working closely with the NPDN Training and Education Committee led by Amanda Hodges (UFL) and with funding from CSREES National Research Initiative, Plant Biosecurity Program.

The training targets a national audience of Crop Consultants, County Educators, and more to become First Detectors in protecting America's agriculture from deliberate or natural introduction of high-risk plant pathogens and arthropods.

There are 6 training modules: Mission of the NPDN; Monitoring for High-Risk Pests; Diagnosing Plant Problems; Submitting Diagnostic Samples; Photography for Diagnostics; and Disease and Pest Scenarios. Each module takes 50-60 minutes to complete.

The training modules are media-rich with well over 350 individual screens that contain over 500 photographs and illustrations. In addition, there are many interactive features including over 100 questions that incorporate rich images to quiz learners during the training. A Learn More feature allows learners to explore additional information at 60 different points in the training.

The online training can be accessed by going to <http://cbc.at.ufl.edu> and obtaining a password.

NPDD Crop Biosecurity Online Training Project Team:

Gerald Holmes
Project Director
Subject Matter Expert

Howard Beck
Co-Project Director
Learning Technology

Gerry Snyder
Co-Project Director
Instructional Design

Welcome

Welcome!

Can you identify a pest or plant disease?

Do you know what a "Select Agent" is?

Who do you contact to submit "problem" plant samples?

The United States is the world's largest and most extensive food producer. Monitoring and reporting food crop problems is essential in maintaining the health and stability of our nation's food supply.

We need you to be the eyes and ears in the field!

This program is for crop growers, specialists, county agriculture agents and anyone who works "in the field" with tree, plant, and food crop production.

Go Directly to Training Modules

Exit

Next

NPDN Crop Biosecurity Online Training can be found at <http://cbc.at.ufl.edu>.

First Detector Training Opportunity: Phytophthora Online Training for Nursery Growers

Oregon State University offers an online training for nursery growers on diseases caused by *Phytophthora* spp. with the goal of helping to minimize these diseases in the nursery setting.

The training is free and consists of three 1 to 1.5 hour modules. There is an optional online exam that does have a fee of \$100. If you pass the test, participants will receive a Certificate of Mastery on Phytophthora from Oregon State University Extended Campus.

If you are a First Detector Educator, this may be a worthwhile training to promote to your First Detector groups.

For more information on this training, please visit online: [OSU Phytophthora Online Course](#).

PDIS Updates

Coming soon....New Improved Lab Method



Currently when entering a diagnosis into PDIS, the number of lab methods that can be entered for each sample diagnosis was limited to one, usually, the most technically advanced method used.

In the near future, users will be 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.

So be sure to enter all of the lab methods used beginning June 1, 2008. Samples uploaded to the National Repository will however only contain the most technologically advanced method utilized.

National Database Subcommittee Update

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

The NPDN national database subcommittee met on April 9, 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. 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).

Continued on page 6...

National Database

National Database

Continued from page 5...

Topics of discussion included:

- Change submission requests.
- Review of a draft of the guidelines to help the group review the database.
- Review of fungal disease common names beginning with the letter D and E-F.

The next meeting will be held on May 21, 2008.

NPDN National Database – Upcoming Trainings

Mike Hill
Programmer Analyst
CERIS - Purdue University

Listed below are upcoming training opportunities on degree day maps and the NPDN National Database. These training sessions will be conducted online via Adobe Connect and will last approximately 90 minutes. If you are

interested in setting up a custom training session for your diagnostic lab or region please contact Mike Hill (mhill@ceris.purdue.edu) at 765-494-9854.

Degree Day Maps Training

Training is available to diagnosticians for viewing their lab's data overlaid with degree day data generated by Oregon State (figure 1). Those interested in participating in the GPDN training need to contact Marietta White (mrwhite@ksu.edu) at 785-532-1348. If you are interested in attending the May training session please contact Carla Thomas at 530-304-0689 (cthomas@ucdavis.edu) or Mike Hill (mhill@ceris.purdue.edu) at 765-494-9854.

- Monday April 28, 2008 (GPDN)
- Thursday May 15, 2008 (All Regions)

National Database Training

Topics covered during this training session will include how to create summary reports, generate maps, and use the reference files. Training is available for the Northeast region on the following date. Those that are interested in

participating should contact Mary McKellar (mem40@cornell.edu) at 607-255-4162.

- Thursday May 1, 2008 (NEPDN)

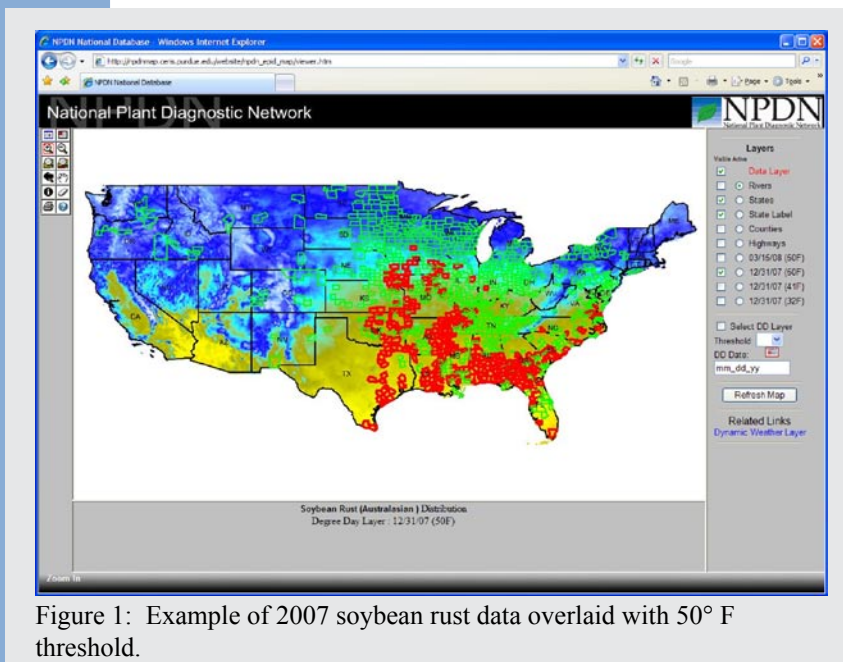


Figure 1: Example of 2007 soybean rust data overlaid with 50° F threshold.



Regional Updates

North Central Region

North Central Region Annual Meeting

The North Central Plant Diagnostic Network (NCPDN) met at Ohio State University April 1-2, 2008. Diagnosticians representing land-grant universities and several state departments of agriculture from the North Central Region participated; 23 people attended the meeting.

The morning session on April 1st included presentations by OSU's horticulture specialist Dr. Hannah Mathers who discussed stem splitting in nursery trees, Dr. Anne Dorrance discussed Ohio State's approach to teaching plant disease diagnostics, and Dr. Dave Shetlar, OSU Entomology, explained how to use plant phenology to predict insect emergence.

Entomologists and plant pathologists participated in split sessions in the afternoon. Plant pathologists attended a laboratory session presented by Dr. Rob Fisher, Ohio Department of Agriculture on use of dsRNA extraction for detection of viruses, while entomologists discussed identification of turf insects presented by Dr. Dave Shetlar and diagnosis of fruit and vegetable insect injury presented by Dr. Celeste Welty. Barbara Bloetscher,

OSU's entomology diagnostician gave a presentation on delusory parasitosis. A discussion of the draft document on basic entomology laboratory requirements then took place, aided by Cassandra Bates and Dr. Ray Hammerschmidt.

The NCPDN held its business meeting the following morning, April 2nd. Topics included a presentation on unusual plant problems seen in the various laboratories facilitated by Dimitre Mollov, Nancy Pataky led a lively discussion of PDIS, Mike Hill presented a discussion on the interaction between NPDN and CERIS, and Gail Ruhl facilitated lab status reports from the various states. Regional coordinator Ray Hammerschmidt outlined current plans and expectations for the coming year in NCPDN.

The NCPDN will meet in Columbia, Missouri in 2009, tentatively scheduled for March 31-April 1, 2009.



Dr. Dave Shetlar from the Department of Entomology at Ohio State University teaches the NCPDN diagnosticians about using phenology to determine timing of insect emergence.

Northeast Region

NEPDN Regional Center Diagnostic Laboratory Now Offers Brown Root Rot Testing

Brown root rot (BRR), caused by the fungus *Phoma sclerotioides*, is a cold-weather disease affecting the roots and crowns of alfalfa during the dormant period when plants are not actively growing. April through early May is the best time to assess over-wintered alfalfa plants for the symptoms and signs of BRR. It is difficult to diagnose BRR in dead plants, but characteristic lesions can be discerned on the roots and crowns of plants showing slow regrowth of shoots from the crown buds in spring.

BRR lesions vary in appearance, but they are generally light to dark brown, often with a darker border. BRR lesions that girdle the upper tap root or the crown result in winterkill. BRR lesions that girdle the lower tap root or affect just part

of the root or crown, can lead to reduced plant vigor and slow emergence of alfalfa in the spring.

First confirmed within New York in Clinton Co. in 2003, BRR is now known to occur throughout New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. In New York, high incidence levels of the disease have been observed in alfalfa production fields across western, southern tier, and northern parts of the state. The disease is most severe in regions with harsh winters such as in northern New York and northern New England.

Absolute confirmation of brown root rot requires a molecular laboratory test that is now available from the NEPDN Regional Center Diagnostic Laboratory at Cornell University (<http://plantclinic.cornell.edu/Default.htm>) for \$40 per composite field sample. The result will be yes/no whether the BRR fungus was present at any level in the overall sample. If you are interested in submitting a sample for diagnosis, please contact the clinic at 607-255-7850 prior to submission of samples for diagnosis.



Range of typical brown root rot symptoms in alfalfa. Note the light to dark brown lesions and the flaky epidermal tissues within the lesions. Photos by Kent Loeffler, Cornell University.



Southern Region

Gladiolus Rust Detected Again in Florida

USDA-APHIS confirmed the diagnosis of gladiolus rust made by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Plant Industry.

Diagnosis and confirmation were made mid-March on a sample collected from a gladiolus production facility in Hendry County, FL.

This is the third detection of this disease at this facility. The first two were made in 2006 and 2007. Gladiolus rust is a plant disease of quarantine significance in the United States that primarily attacks hybrid cultivars of gladiolus grown for flower production and could have significant impact if it became established or was transported into greenhouses or nurseries.

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

NAPPO Phytosanitary Alert System:

[Gladiolus Rust \[*Uromyces transversalis* \(Thum.\)\] detected again in Florida - United States](#)

Quarantined Area in Willacy County, Texas for Mexican Fruit Fly (*Anastrepha ludens*)

Due to the detection of a population of Mexican fruit fly, *Anastrepha ludens*, in the Raymondville area of Willacy County, Texas, the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Services (USDA-APHIS) has placed a quarantine of 113 square miles within this county to prevent the spread of the pest to noninfested areas of the U.S.

Mexican fruit fly is a serious pest of various fruits including citrus and mango that is not currently established in the U.S.

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

NAPPO Phytosanitary Alert System:
[*Anastrepha ludens* \(Mexican fruit fly\) - Quarantined Area in Willacy County, Texas – United States](#)

Regional Updates



UGA1322089

Adult Mexican fruit flies on a grapefruit. (Photo Jack Dykinga, www.ipmimages.org)

Upcoming Events

National Events

May 6 - 8, 2008, [Western Plant Board 2008 Annual Meeting](#), Cody, WY

July 26-30, 2008, [Centennial APS/SON Joint Meeting](#), Minneapolis, MN

August 10-14, 2008, [National Plant Board 2008 Annual Meeting](#), Solomons, Maryland

November 16-19, 2008, [ESA Annual Meeting](#), Reno, NV

March 24-26, 2009, [Sixth International IPM Symposium](#), Portland, OR

December 2009, NPDN National Meeting, Miami, FL

Education and Training Events

April 28, 2008, GPDN Degree Day Maps Training, contact Marietta White (mrwhite@ksu.edu) for more information.

May 1, 2008, NEPDN National Repository Training via Adobe Connect, contact Mary McKellar, mem40@cornell.edu for more information.

May 15, 2008, Open to all Regions: Degree Day Maps Training, contact Carla Thomas (cthomas@ucdavis.edu) or Mike Hill (mhill@ceris.purdue.edu) for more information.

June 22-25, 2008, Natural History and Taxonomy of the Carabidae, Oak Lake Field Station, South Dakota, contact Jonathan Lundgren, jonathan.lundgren@ars.usda.gov for more information.

June 24-27, 2008, [2008 eXtension National Community of Practice Meeting](#), Louisville, KY.



[Mary McKellar](#), Editor
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