NPDN National Plant Diagnostic Network

NPDN News

The Newsletter of the National Plant Diagnostic Network

Volume 2, Issue 1, January 2007

National Updates

First NPDN National Meeting Just Days Away

The first NPDN National Meeting will be held on January 28-31, 2007 in Orlando, Florida at the Wyndham Resort. An updated meeting program, registration and hotel information is available on the Plant Management Network's NPDN National Meeting Web Page.

We look forward to seeing you in Orlando!

NPDN Partners with the Plant Management Network

In December 2006, the National Plant Diagnostic Network partnered with the Plant Management Network (PMN), a nonprofit online publisher of peer-reviewed, applied plant science and agricultural resources for researchers, consultants, growers, and producers.

The Plant Management Network was a logical choice for partnership, as it offers a platform through which to develop our online registration process, as well as an outlet to display our proceedings and conference materials. Its association with many of NPDN's member universities was also an important factor in this partnership decision.

The partnership is also beneficial in that it gives NPDN the ability to offer 20 complimentary subscriptions for NPDN member universities which don't have Plant Management Network subscriptions already available to them.

Staff of Plant Management Network partner universities can register for free access to all PMN resources by username and password.

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Issue Highlights:

♦2007 National Meeting Just Days Away!
♦ NPDN Partners with Plant Management Network
♦Soybean Rust in 2007
♦Upcoming Changes in *P. ramorum* Diagnostics in USDA
♦SPDN Invasive Arthropod Workshop Announcement
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National Updates

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To register, go to PMN's personal subscriptions page and scroll to the bottom. Click on your university's link, and fill out the online form to register.

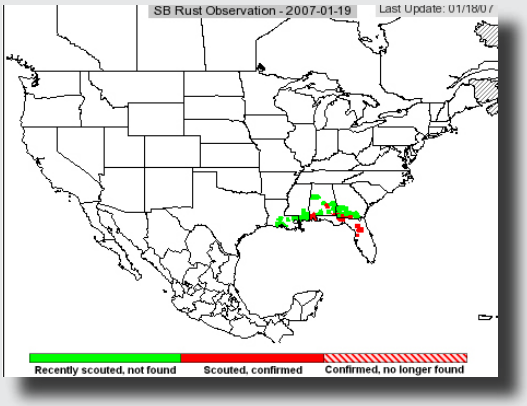
If your university is not a Plant Management Network partner and you would like to receive one of these 20 complimentary subscriptions, please contact your regional center's director.

Soybean Rust Already!

The first find of soybean rust for 2007 has been reported on over wintering kudzu in four counties in Florida early this January. Since then, soybean rust has been reported on kudzu in Georgia and Alabama.

Forecasted colder temperatures in conjunction with eradication of infected kudzu may help to reduce the amount of soybean rust that over winters.

For more information on soybean rust in the U.S., please visit the USDA PIPE web site.



Soybean rust reported in U.S. as of January 2007. (www.sbrusa.net)

Diagnostic Updates

Upcoming Changes in *P. ramorum* Diagnostics in USDA

Dr. Mary Palm
USDA-APHIS-PPQ-NIS

Final morphological identifications for foreign and domestic plant pest interceptions are the responsibility of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), National Identification Services (NIS). This staff coordinates final identifications carried out by specialists in NIS, the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and cooperating laboratories.

To date, molecular and biochemical diagnostics have been performed by the Center for Plant Health Science and Technology (CPHST), National Plant Germplasm Quarantine Biotechnology Laboratory in Beltsville Maryland.

Beginning in early 2007, a newly formed NIS Molecular Diagnostic Lab (MDL) will be responsible for molecular and biochemical diagnostics of quarantine pests for which there are PPQ approved tests including *Phytophthora ramorum*, soybean rust, plum pox virus, citrus canker and others.

The MDL also is located in Building 580, BARC-East, Beltsville, MD and is staffed by Dr. Mary Palm, Lab Director, and two principle scientists, Drs. Gloria Abad and Padma Sudarshana.

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Two support scientists will be hired in the near future.

Responsibility for morphological and molecular diagnostics of program quarantine pests within NIS and at one location will provide NPDN with a centralized morphological and molecular diagnostics and communications structure.

What does this mean for NPDN diagnosticians and SOD samples?

As of **February 5, 2007** the MDL will be processing suspect *P. ramorum* samples. This won't be a big change in your normal submission procedures. You will be submitting DNA samples as you have in the past and now cultures can be sent to that same address:

Molecular Diagnostic Lab
USDA/APHIS/PPQ
Attn: Dr. Mary E. Palm
B-580, BARC-East
Powder Mill Rd.
Beltsville MD 20705
301-504-7100

Please notify the lab via email (Mary.Palm@aphis.usda.gov) that samples are on the way and provide the tracking number if possible. All inquiries about samples should be made through Mary Palm (301-504-5700 x 329 or 301-504-7154, fax 301-504-6124, Mary.Palm@aphis.usda.gov).

We look forward to working with you on SOD as well as other diagnostics in the future. I'll keep you posted as additional tests are transitioned to MDL from the CPHST Methods Lab.

Diagnostic Updates

SPDN to Host an Invasive Arthropod Workshop May 2007

The SPDN announces an Invasive Arthropod Workshop that will be held in Clemson, SC, May 7-9, 2007.

Clemson University, a SPDN member, is serving as the host institution for the event.

(Photo David Cappeat, www.forestryimages.org)

The USDA-APHIS-PPQ and the Florida Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industries, have partnered with the SPDN to support this training session.

A majority of the workshop time will focus on hands-on, diagnostic specific information for pests of concern to the southern region. Concurrent laboratory sessions will allow participants the opportunity to diagnostically focus on specific pest groups of interest.

In addition to valuable identification information on high-risk exotic or limited distribution pests of concern, information on other relevant exotic pest programs, pathways of introduction, communication protocols, and much more will also be discussed.

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Diagnostic Updates

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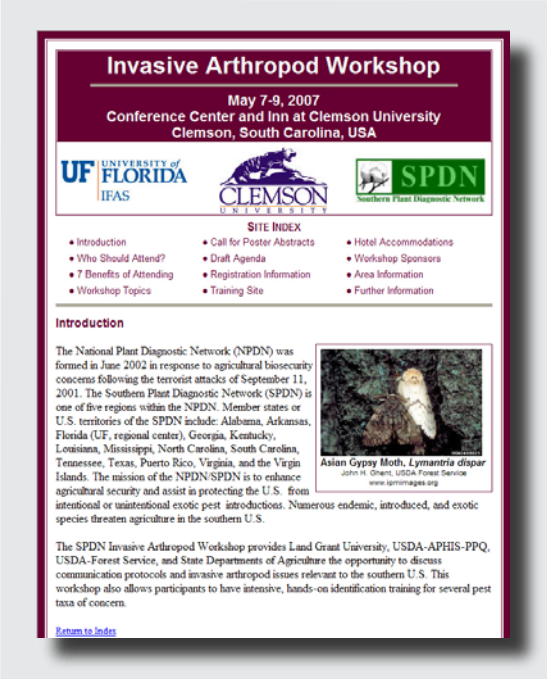
Participants also have the option of submitting poster presentation on invasive arthropod issues.

The early registration deadline is February 1, 2007.

Please make plans to attend this exciting training opportunity today.

General workshop questions may be directed to Amanda Hodges achodges@ufl.edu. Local arrangements questions may be directed to John Morse jmorse@clemson.edu



Comprehensive Phytopathogen Genomics Resource (CPGR) Workshop

March 20-23, 2007
The Institute for Genomic Research
Rockville, MD

In 2006 USDA CSREES provided funds for the establishment of a Comprehensive Phytopathogen Genomics Resource (http://cpgr.tigr.org).

The objective of CPGR is to create a comprehensive plant pathogen genome sequence and annotation resource. The CPGR will also provide computational data and tools to facilitate research in plant pathogens and assist researchers in data-mining pathogenic genomes for diagnostic sequences useful in species or strain identification.

As part of CPGR development, we are offering a workshop for those interested in developing molecular diagnostic tools.

The training will include database, computational pipeline, genomics, and diagnostic genomic marker development methods.

Because of space limitations, the workshop will be restricted to 15 people.

Lodging and meals will be provided as part of the workshop (no registration fee) but participants must pay travel costs to and from the meeting.

This notice is going out through the NPDN network first, and we are asking regional directors to help identify potential participants who are working on plant pathogen detection methods.

We would prefer to have representation from all regions. Please have interested parties contact Ned Tisserat ned.tisserat@colostate.edu or Robin Buell rbuell@tigr.ORG by Thursday, January 25, 2007.

Education and Training

Training and Education Committee Update

Amanda Hodges
Training and Education Committee Chairperson
Department of Entomology and Nematology
University of Florida

The NPDN Training and Education Committee met for their regularly scheduled monthly conference call on Tuesday, January 16, 2007. Full meeting minutes are posted on the NPDN web site training and education committee page (login required).

Highlights of the discussion included the following:
Agenda for the Training and Education Committee Breakout Section
Gerry Snyder (Kansas State University) reported that one or two of the modules for the online Crop Biosecurity Training Program will be available for viewing at the NPDN National Meeting in Orlando, FL.
Session and participant registration at the NPDN training site http://cbc.at.ufl.edu/ seems to be functioning smoothly. Please continue to contact Amanda achodges@ufl.edu to report specific problems with the site.
Comments or suggestions for the First Detector newsletter, please direct comments or submit FD news to Carrie Harmon,
(clharmon@ufl.edu .)

The next committee meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 20, 2007 from 1-3 PM**.

New Module Development

The NPDN is in the process of developing special topic training modules to assist in providing extension information on pests of concern.

New special topic modules released during December/January include the following:
Ellis, McKellar, and Hodges. (December 2006) Plum Pox Virus. NPDN Publication No. 0004.
Ellis and Hodges (January 2007) Khapra Beetle. NPDN Publication No. 0009.

Several other modules are in review, and will be released at the end of January/early February.

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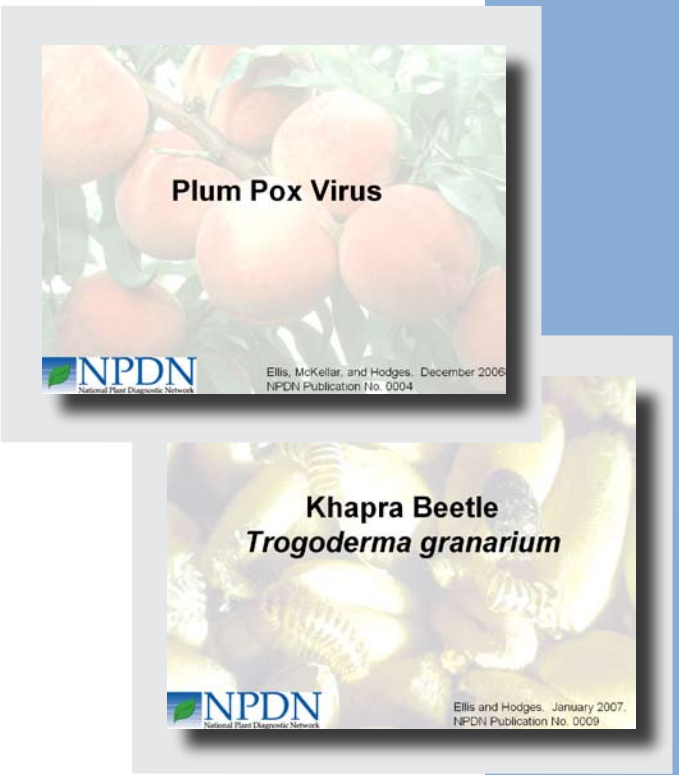

Education and Training

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Please visit the NPDN's First Detector Information Page for module updates.

Note that all NPDN modules can be used for extension education (non-profit purposes). Please remember to credit the source. Also, anyone may submit an NPDN Special Topic Module for posting on the First Detector Information Page. If you are interested in submitting a training module to the NPDN, please contact Amanda Hodges, achodges@ufl.edu .

All modules are reviewed, but are extension (i.e. non-refereed) web publications. Stay tuned to the NPDN First Detector newsletter and the NPDN web site for updated information.

New Revised Training Modules Available for First Detector Training Are you interested in conducting First Detector Training? All core NPDN modules have recently been revised and are available on the WWW for extension education use at the NPDN's First Detector Information Page. Revised modules have an overall improved appearance, updated information, and contain enhanced speaker notes.

Be one of the first to take a tour of the online First Detector Crop Biosecurity training!

Gerry Snyder, Kansas State University, and Howard Beck, University of Florida, will be on hand at the NPDN National Meeting at the Wyndham Orlando Resort January 28 - 31, 2007. They will demonstrate several features of the on-line training program, answer questions, and even let you "test drive" several of the modules. Please take some time to visit their booth while you are at the conference.

Please contact Gerry (gsnyder@ksu.edu) or Howard (hwb@ufl.edu) if you have any questions.

From the PDIS Development Team

PDIS Users Survey on Software Features

Jayasri Krishnasamy
PDIS Development Team
Kansas State University

The PDIS software development team is trying to gather PDIS users' preferences for the navigation menu system for the next version of PDIS.

To gather PDIS users' preferences we are going to conduct a short survey addressing the navigation menu of the PDIS system.

This survey is part of the planning process for the next version of PDIS. The results from this survey will be used for the development of a new version of PDIS. No immediate changes will be made to the current PDIS system.

The survey will be conducted through Kansas State University's Survey System. An email containing an URL for the survey will be sent to PDIS users by the last week of January from the Kansas State University Survey System with a subject line saying "PDIS Users Survey on Software Features." Please click on the URL to get to the survey.

I encourage all PDIS users to participate in the survey and let us know your preferences.

IT Updates

Did ya know?

Judy Dizon
PDIS Development Team
Kansas State University

If a diagnostician enters a host or diagnosis ID without a known EPA code for diagnosis, they may request an EPA code from NPDN. Please refer to the User Manual found at the login page of http://www.pdis.org and see "Request EPA Codes" section found under the "Diagnostician" section of the Diagnostics Module for more information.

Diagnosticians can send emails direclty from PDIS to the submitter regarding the current sample being diagnosed.

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CSV Data Dump

Diagnosticians can now download a Comma Separated Values (CSV) data dump which dumps data for the pre-defined fields like Sample number, Location information, Host/Habitat information, Diagnosis/ ID information and Confidence Level information. CSV data dump is currently a compact dump and is evolving. Please use this feature and let us know your feedback.

To use this feature, please log into PDIS and click on the link "XML Data Dump" under the "Diagnostician Menu."

IT Updates

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More information on both of these topics can be found in this newsletter as well as in the User Manual found at http://www.pdis.org under Request EPA Codes" and "Referrals and Transfers" sections respectively in the "Diagnostician" section of the Diagnostics Module.

Accomplished Requests

Jayasri Krishnasamy
PDIS Development Team
Kansas State University

In an effort to reduce the time it takes to load pages in PDIS, the sample counts for each of the items under "Diagnostician Menu" will not be updated in a real-time fashion. Instead an "Update Count" link has been provided under "Diagnostician Menu." When clicked, this link will update the sample counts for each of the items under "Diagnostician Menu."

For your convenience and to prevent scrolling for the most frequently used features like "Sample Check-In", "Sample Q's", the "Diagnostician Menu" has been moved up above other Menu's like "Secure Communications", "IT Menu", "GIS Mapping" and so on.

Finally, when working within a sample, diagnosticians can now correspond via e-mail to a submitter or any of the contacts using the hotlink provided for these contacts in the sample summary section at the top of the page. When this feature is used, diagnosticians can send an e-mail without exiting from the PDIS system and at the same time one does not have to open one's e-mail clients to send an e-mail.

How to request an EPA code while using PDIS?

Sharmila Dabade
PDIS Development Team
Kansas State University

Follow the steps below for requesting an EPA code while using PDIS. It is important to note that only diagnosticians can request an EPA code for a new Host/Pest.

1. Click on EPA Code Request link from Diagnostician menu.
2. Fill out EPA request details like common name and taxonomic name.
3. Click on Send Request button.

or

4. Enter the host/pest names under diagnosis tab and save it with nonexistent name. After saving, it will show a warning with a link for 'Request EPA Code'.
5. After clicking on this link, follow steps 1, 2 and 3.

For more information, please click on the 'Help' link under the Main Menu on

Upcoming Events

National Events

January 28-31, 2007, NPDN National Meeting, Orlando, FL

July 28-August 1, 2007, APS-SON Joint Meeting, San Diego, CA

August 19-23, 2007, National Plant Board Meeting, Honolulu, HI

December 9-12, 2007, ESA Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA

Regional Events

May 7-9, 2007, SPDN Invasive Arthropod Workshop, Clemson, SC

NPDN
National Plant Diagnostic Network

CSREES
EDUCATION • RESEARCH • EXTENSION
USDA

Mary McKellar, Editor
NEPDN
Cornell University