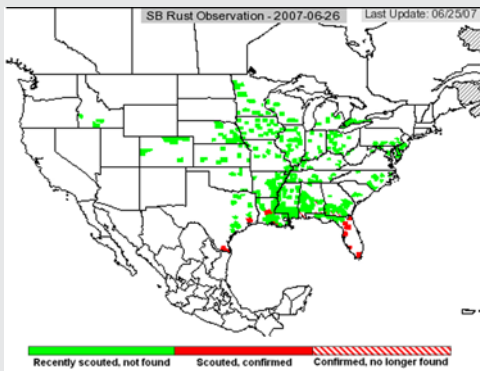


## National Updates

### U.S. Soybean Rust Update

Scouting for soybean rust has intensified nationally with most of the sentinel plots being monitored regularly throughout the soybean growing states, and north to Canada.



Soybean rust reported in the U.S. as of June 26, 2007. ([www.sbrusa.net](http://www.sbrusa.net))

Soybean rust was reported in three new locations on June 21, 2007. Two reports came from sentinel plots located in Avoyelles and Rapides Parishes in Louisiana.

Additionally, soybean rust was reported in a commercial field in Cameron County, Texas. This is the

second detection of soybean rust in a commercial field in Texas in the month of June. On June 14th, a commercial field in Hidalgo County, Texas was confirmed to have soybean rust. Soybean rust was found on volunteer soybeans in this county earlier this year as well as last year on late planted soybeans.

Soybean rust has been detected to date in ten counties in Florida, five counties in each of Georgia and Alabama, and four Parishes in Louisiana and three counties in Texas. For more information on the status of Asian Soybean Rust in the U.S., please visit the [USDA PIPE web site](http://www.usda.gov/PIPE).

### Still Time to Register for the Third Annual Soybean Rust Short Course!

The third annual Soybean Rust Short Course will be held on July 11-12, 2007 at the North Florida Research and Education Center in Quincy, FL. Registration is free (the course is sponsored by the North Central Soybean Research Program), but you must pre-register online. For more information on the course, please click [here](#).

#### Issue Highlights:

- ◆ U.S. Soybean Rust Update
- ◆ Third Annual Soybean Rust Short Course Announcement
- ◆ Diagnostic Tip of the Month: Oak Wilt Testing
- ◆ Diagnostic Subcommittee Update
- ◆ Education and Training Subcommittee Update
- ◆ Improvements to the NPDN Training and Education Web Site
- ◆ Feedback requested from First Detectors
- ◆ First Detector and First Detector Educator Brochures Available!
- ◆ NPDN and EDEN
- ◆ National Database Subcommittee Update
- ◆ NPDN National Database Web Site: Uploading PIPE Data
- ◆ SPDN: Poliaspis Cycad Scale Detected for the First Time in Florida
- ◆ WPDN: Nettle Caterpillar (*Darna pallivitta*) Detected in a Nursery in Oahu, Hawaii



# Diagnostic Tip of the Month

## Diagnostic Tip of the Month: Oak Wilt Testing

Nancy Pataky  
Plant Clinic Director  
University of Illinois



Figure 1 (top). Branch showing vascular staining. Figure 2 (bottom). Vascular staining may be deep in the wood. (Photo Nancy Pataky, University of Illinois)

The causal fungus of oak wilt is *Ceratocystis fagacearum*; but it is the anamorph, *Chalara*, that we are able to isolate in the lab.

This fungus is not always uniformly distributed in the tree, so it is essential to obtain branches that show vascular staining. Often this appears as brown streaks in the outer sapwood as shown in Figure 1. In some cases the staining may be deeper in the wood, as shown in

Figure 2. The pith discoloration in this image is not related to oak wilt.

*Chalara* can be isolated on a conventional mix of potato dextrose agar. Acidifying the agar will help reduce bacterial contaminations. This is helpful because plates need to incubate at room temperature for 7-10 days before a positive can be confirmed.

Branches to be tested must show vascular streaking and must be alive. Ask for branch sections that are 8-10 inches long. You must be able to hold firmly one end of the branch as you flame sterilize the

other end. Do this by dipping the branch section in a tall, narrow container of alcohol and then touching it to a flame. Sometimes the bark does not want to quit burning, so you may need to put out the flame by sharply waving it in the air under the transfer hood.

Branch sections that are at least as thick as but no larger in girth than your thumb, work best. Larger limbs have thicker bark, making it more difficult to remove the bark without contaminating the sapwood.

Next, flame sterilize a budding knife or other sturdy, sharp knife. Use the knife to peel off the bark, revealing the stained sapwood. If staining is not visible, remove sapwood until you can see the staining. Re-flame the knife. Next, take small chips of wood, no more than 1/8 to 1/4 inch thick (Figure 3) from this stained area and place chips into the agar so that half of each chip is in the agar and the other half exposed to the air in the plate.

Find a technique that allows you to hold the sample and open the plate only enough to insert the wood chip as seen in Figure 4.

*Continued on page 3...*



Figure 3. Taking chips from discolored wood and placing it in agar. (Photo Nancy Pataky, University of Illinois)

Continued from  
page 2...

Avoid placing the sample down, and avoid leaving the lid on the table surface. Prepare at least four plates so that you can keep checking for sporulation without contaminating all of your cultures.



Figure 4. Open the plate only enough to insert the wood chip. (Photo Nancy Pataky, University of Illinois)

Observe the culture plates regularly for the development of a dark green to brown colony as in Figure 5. Confirmation of a positive isolate can be made when the spores of *Chalara* can be found. These spores are rectangular in shape and occur in chains that emerge from the end of the conidiophores.

Since the spores disperse easily in water, use a tape mount technique to see the spores in intact chains. Touch the tape to the older part of a colony, and place on a drop of water on a microscope slide to be viewed on a compound microscope.

There is one bit of advice that we learned the hard way. The high temperatures of mail trucks will work to kill or slow the



Figure 5. Dark brown to green colonies of *Chalara* on agar. (Photo Nancy Pataky, University of Illinois)

oak wilt fungus. If you are seeing staining in your samples but are not isolating the oak wilt fungus, suggest that the client submit wood samples packaged between frozen disposable ice packs.

## Diagnostics Subcommittee Update

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

The Diagnostics subcommittee held a conference call on June 14, 2007. 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:

- Updated Soybean Rust SOP version 2.0 now available.
- Laboratory Accreditation Update.
- Creation of Leadership Subcommittee.
- Diagnostician Website Access to Committee Pages.
- Legume Virus PIPE SOP now available and distributed.
- IT-Diagnosticians Meeting Plans- November 28-29, 2007.

The next meeting will be held on **July 12, 2007**.

## Diagnostic Update

# Education and Training

## Training and Education Subcommittee Update

Amanda Hodges  
Subcommittee Chair  
University of Florida  
Department of  
Entomology and  
Nematology

Visit the Training & Education Subcommittee page of the [NPDN web site](#) (NPDN login required) for the May meeting minutes on the NPDN portal.

Highlights from last month's conference call included the following:

- Working group for developing a national template for simplified Master Gardener modules was formed.
- Online modules under review by the NPDN Training & Education Subcommittee.
- Update on National Master Gardener Conference was provided.
- The NPDN plans to host a booth promoting the training program at the [National Association of County Agriculture Agents \(NACAA\) meeting in Grand Rapids, MI](#).
- Progress update for Training and Education database improvements provided.

## Improvements for the NPDN Training and Education Site

The new and improved training and education website (version 3.0) will be released on **Monday, July 1, 2007**.

Thanks to all of you for your continued patience, education of First Detectors, and feedback regarding the First Detector training and education site. If you have concerns regarding the site that have not been submitted, please contact Amanda Hodges [achodges@ufl.edu](mailto:achodges@ufl.edu) with feedback, questions, or concerns as we are rebuilding the web site to better serve your needs.

Some of the features you can expect for the new and improved training web site include the following:

- 1) You will be able to upload your participant data directly from an excel spreadsheet.
- 2) The open registration (Moodle password not required) for participants to sign-up for training sessions in advance of a meeting will be available on the main portal <http://cbc.at.ufl.edu/>.

*Continued on page 5...*

WELCOME mmckellar! | Logoff

Home > Select Workshop

### NPDN Training Workshops

Show all workshops on or after this date (month/date/year): June 26 2007

Show workshops in this state: All States

Display:  Title  Description  Organizer(s)  Date  Location  Training Type  Web Site  
 Subjects  Registration Closing Date  Maximum Attendance  Notes

Search

Register	Title	Organizer(s)	Date	Location
<a href="#">Register</a>	CDFA Pest Prevention Workshop - Fresno CA	Richard Hoenisch	12-4-2007	Fresno, CA
<a href="#">Register</a>	NY First Detector Training for Master Gardeners	Mary McKellar	7-19-2007	Ithaca, NY

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*Continued from page 4...*

- 3) Excel upload (i.e. batch entry) will be available after logging into the site. This feature will be available to workshop coordinators, state coordinators, and regional coordinators.
- 4) Session organizers will be able to view their training sessions organized by the actual session instead of a larger participant table.
- 5) The following user roles will be defined within the system: national coordinator(s), regional coordinators, state coordinators, and session organizers. In the long-term, each of the coordinator roles will be able to assist with troubleshooting and also view all participant and session data from their area of responsibility.
- 6) The new training and education web site will be compatible with the overall design of the revised NPDN portal (anticipated release of the new NPDN portal is summer/fall 2007).
- 7) Simplified help documents will be available for all educators utilizing the site.

A transition towards utilizing professional IT expertise from the University of Florida for your training database troubleshooting needs will occur following the web site redesign. Amanda Hodges, extension entomologist and chair of the Training and Education Subcommittee, has assisted you with your training database questions on an interim basis. Amanda will continue to assist you as needed and will help transition IFAS IT towards maintenance of the training database site.

#### **Prior to July 1, 2007:**

Please continue to maintain your First Detector Training (session and participant data).

Please visit the [NPDN First Detector Information Page](#) to download both forms for session and participant information. The session form is available in a PDF format. Participant Data entry is available through an excel spreadsheet that may be downloaded.

Please e-mail or mail your data to Amanda Hodges:

[achodges@ufl.edu](mailto:achodges@ufl.edu)  
University of Florida  
Entomology & Nematology  
Department  
Natural Area Drive  
PO Box 110620  
Gainesville, FL 32611

#### **Feedback from First Detectors Requested**

Have you conducted First Detector Training? Encourage your First Detectors to respond to the [online, post-training survey](#). This link is also available on the 'In the News' section of the [First Detector Information page](#).

#### **First Detector and First Detector Educator Brochures Available!**

First Detector and How to Conduct a First Detector Training Session brochures are now available. Contact your Regional Training and Education Coordinator for copies. Also, brochures are posted on the [First Detector Information page](#).

## Education and Training



# Education and Training



## EDEN and the NPDN

Cassandra Bates  
NCPDN Training and  
Education Coordinator

Department of Plant  
Pathology  
Michigan State  
University

The Extension  
Disaster Education  
Network (EDEN)  
is a network of  
specialists and

educators who reduce the impact of  
disasters through education.

The network of specialist and educators, in every U.S. state and three territories, provide information to Extension agents when they need it during a time of disaster. For example, during Hurricane Katrina EDEN delegates from around the nation offered helpful educational materials to their counterparts in affected states. EDEN works in all phases of disaster: mitigation, prevention, preparation, response and recovery.

EDEN becomes involved in crop and plant biosecurity issues when those issues are perceived by the public to be a potential disaster and/or when a disaster has been declared. The recent outbreak of sudden oak death in the West required an immediate educational response by EDEN for Extension agents to be able to answer the public's questions.

In becoming involved with crop biosecurity, EDEN has partnered with

NPDN in developing and planning educational material that will be passed on to selected audiences and the public. Recently, Michigan State University specialist, Cassandra Bates of the NCPDN became an EDEN delegate. She is in charge of developing educational material for crop and plant biosecurity for the entire nation.

If you would like to contribute information regarding potential crop/plant pests or pathogens of concerns to the public, or notify her of potential issues please email her at: [dolecass@msu.edu](mailto:dolecass@msu.edu).

Also if you want to review and comment on the EDEN Plant and Crop Security page visit: <http://eden.lsu.edu/plantcrop>.

If you would like additional information about EDEN or to find your state EDEN representative please visit: [www.EDEN.lsu.edu](http://www.EDEN.lsu.edu)



## National Database Committee Update

Karen L. Snover-Clift  
Subcommittee Chairperson  
Cornell University  
Department of Plant Pathology

The National Database Subcommittee met on June 13, 2007 to continue our work on reviewing the massive EPA Pest and Host lists and creating 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 address. 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:

- Review of pending change submissions.
- Upload Guidelines Draft version 2.3.

The next meeting will be held on **July 11, 2007**.

## NPDN National Database: Uploading PIPE Data

Mike Hill  
CERIS Programmer/  
Analyst  
Purdue University

We are on schedule to implement the addition of the three diagnostic incidence fields (DIAG-INCID-CONF, DIAG-INCID-TESTED, DIAG-INCID-UNIT) by **June 30th** as indicated in the May 2007 newsletter.

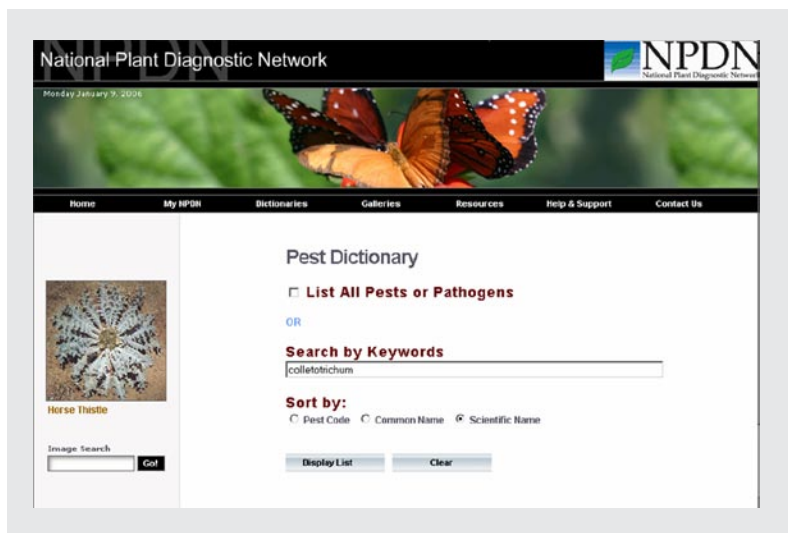
These fields were added to accommodate the uploading of legume virus data. Also, in order to match up records between the NPDN National Repository and PIPE, the PIPE Site ID and Observation Date must be provided.

### *Just a Reminder...*

Those not using PDIS can still request host or pest codes by visiting <http://npdn.ceris.purdue.edu/htbin/npdncode.com>.

If you desire an account, need assistance, or would like formal training presented to a group on the NPDN National Database, please contact Mike Hill at (765) 494-9854 or by e-mail at [mhill@ceris.purdue.edu](mailto:mhill@ceris.purdue.edu).

# National Database



# Education and Training

## Southern Region



### **Poliaspis Cycad Scale Detected for the First Time in Florida**

Poliaspis Cycad Scale (*Poliaspis cycadis* Comstock) was detected for the first time in Florida from a sample collected in Homestead, FL in May 2007.

For more information on this detection, please visit on the web:

[NAPPO Phytosanitary Alert System: \*Poliaspis cycadis\* \(Poliaspis cycad scale\) Detected for the First Time in Florida](#)

[Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Pest Alert: The \*Poliaspis Cycad Scale\* \*Poliaspis cycadis\* Comstock \(Hemiptera: Diaspididae\): A New Exotic Scale for Florida](#)

## Western Region



### **Nettle Caterpillar (*Darna pallivitta*) Detected in a Nursery in Oahu, Hawaii**

A nursery on Oahu, Hawaii has recently reported an infestation of nettle caterpillar (*Darna pallivitta*). This report is the first detection of this pest outside of the Big Island of Hawaii where it was first detected in 2001.

Nettle caterpillar poses a threat to both plants and humans. It is considered polyphagous with some of its more

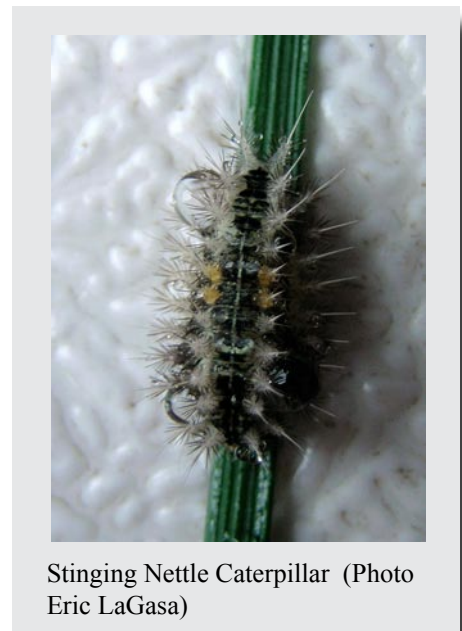
important hosts including corn, fig, coffee, banana and various ornamental palms and grasses. In humans, skin contact with the caterpillar's stinging hairs can cause pain and irritation. Workers at the infested Oahu nursery reported getting stung by the caterpillars. Efforts are underway by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture to contain the infestation.

More information on this detection and pest can be found on the web at:

[Stinging Caterpillar Found at Oahu Nursery, Hawaii Department of Agriculture Press Release](#)

[NAPPO Phytosanitary Alert System: Nettle Caterpillar \(\*Darna pallivitta\*\) detected in Oahu, Hawaii Nursery](#)

[Nettle Caterpillar New Pest Advisory, Hawaii Department of Agriculture](#)



Stinging Nettle Caterpillar (Photo Eric LaGasa)



## *National Events*

**July 11-13, 2007, [SPDN Soybean Rust Identification Short Course](#), Quincy, 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**

**December 12-14, 2007, [2007 National Soybean Rust Symposium](#), Louisville, KY**

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

# Upcoming Events



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NEPDN  
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