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Miami is the home of the most important port of entry for plants and plant products coming into the United States as well as a very active USDA APHIS Plant Inspection Station.

APHIS has graciously agreed to provide tours of the Plant

Inspection Station for those with interest in seeing pest and pathogen interception in action. Other tours are being planned in association with the meeting and a stimulating program is being designed.

Details will be provided as the plans progress. **Mark your calendars; you won't want to miss this one!**

Since then a commercial DAS ELISA kit has become available from Agdia and SbDV has been found in soybean fields in neighboring states as well.

SbDV, a Luteovirus is transmitted by persistently colonizing aphids and causes significant yield losses in soybeans in Japan. SbDV is endemic in red and white clovers in the U.S. including WI and IL. Symptomatic plants were described in Illinois fields for the first time in 2006 (Thekkeveetil et al. Plant Dis. 91:1686, 2007).

We are using RT-PCR because of its higher sensitivity but ELISA works as well. Just follow Agdia's DAS ELISA instructions.

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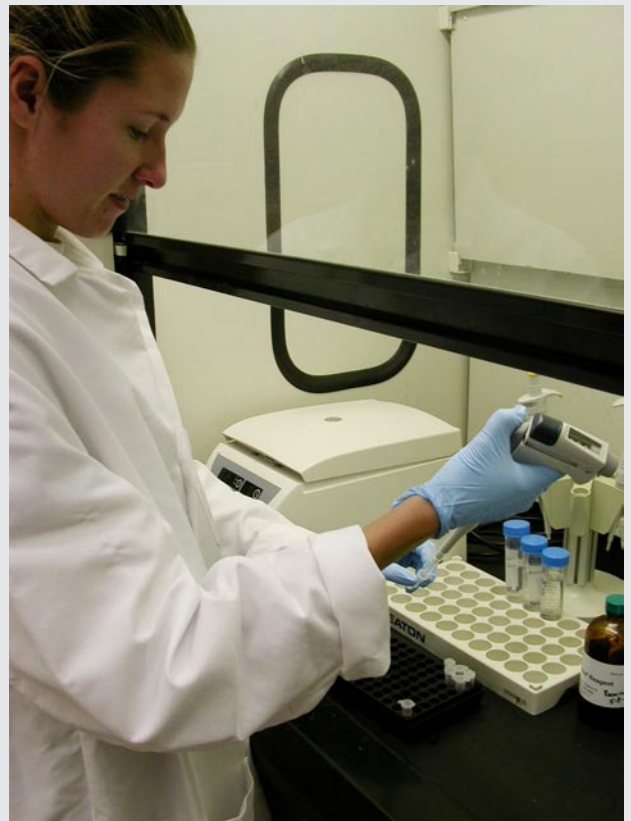
Diagnostic Tip of the Month

Diagnostic Tip of the Month: Soybean Dwarf Virus

Testing of Soybeans

Anette Phibbs
Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Plant Industry Lab
Madison, WI

In 2003 we discovered soybean dwarf virus (SbDV) infected soybean fields in Wisconsin for the first time. The Plant Industry Lab was cooperating with Agdia, Elkhart, IN in field testing ELISA reagents at the time. Samples were confirmed with RT-PCR and determined to be consistent with the dwarfing strain.



Kate Weaver, DATCP, performing a Trizol extraction.

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We've been able to run the testing through our Real time PCR equipment, by using a one step SYBR green kit and primers (SbDV 5406 and SbDV-5493) described in Harrison et al. Plant Dis. 89:28-32, 2005. The one step RT-PCR kits are very easy to use and testing can be made more affordable by doing standard Trizol RNA extraction and reducing the PCR volume to 15ul.

We've been able to detect 0.3% SbDV-D infected soybean fields in Wisconsin which is similar to recent reports in IL.

I'd like to thank Les Domier at ARS in Urbana, IL for generously sharing his expertise.



Northeast Region **NEPDN Hosts Presentation on NPNDN Online First Detector Training Modules**

The NEPDN will be hosting a web based presentation via Adobe Connect on the soon to be released NPNDN Online First Detector Training Modules. The presentation will be given by Gerry Snyder, Kansas State University, on March 12, 2008 at 11am EST.

For more information about this presentation, please contact Mary McKellar, mem40@cornell.edu.



Regional Updates

Western Region **Asian Citrus Psyllid Detected on Imported Curry Leaves**

Pest Exclusion Advisory
State of California Department of Food
and Agriculture
February 1, 2008

On January 31, 2008, 10 boxes of treated and certified curry leaves from Hawaii were inspected and found infested with live insects by Los Angeles County inspectors. The Plant Pest Diagnostic Center has confirmed the presence of live male and female Asian Citrus Psyllids on the curry leaves. (Pest and Damage Record 1308175). Asian Citrus Psyllid are a vector of citrus greening.

As a result of this interception, the California Department of Food and Agriculture has notified the California State Plant Health Director's office (USDA) that, effective February 1, 2008, all shipments of curry leaves are prohibited entry into California under authority of Food and Agricultural Code Section 6461.5 until further notice. This regulatory action is based on the fact that the shipment was properly treated, inspected, and certified, yet live Asian Citrus Psyllids were still intercepted. The efficacy of the treatment and certification process of curry leaves to meet the Federal Order for Asian Citrus Psyllid is in question, and until further investigation has taken place, there is reason to believe that treated and certified curry leaves may pose a pest risk to California.

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