

National Updates

Annual Meeting Update

Annual Meeting
Planning Team
Karen L. Snover-Clift

Department of Plant Pathology
Cornell University

SAVE THE DATE!

The NPDN National Meeting is scheduled for January 28-31, 2007 to be held at the Wyndham Orlando Resort in Orlando, Florida.

Registration and poster abstract submission will begin in early October. Start thinking about what you would like other members and collaborators to learn about how the NPDN has impacted your program.



[Wyndham Resort](#), Orlando, FL

We will be announcing the meeting and providing the registration forms through a purely electronic system.

There will be no paper announcements mailed to you so be on the look out for this email to arrive in early **October**.

Please plan to register early as we believe this will be a popular event!

Issue Highlights:

- ◆ 2007 National Meeting Announcement
- ◆ Diagnostic Subcommittee Updates
- ◆ Real-Time PCR Training Announcement
- ◆ Now Available: Listing of Labs Provisionally Approved for *P. ramorum* Testing
- ◆ NPDN Education and Training Subcommittee Update
- ◆ NPDN Exercise Subcommittee Update
- ◆ NCPDN and NEPDN Regional News: Recent *P. ramorum* confirmations, Information on other Pest Findings, Trainings and More

Diagnostic Updates

Diagnostics Subcommittee Update

Karen L. Snover-Clift
Diagnostic

Subcommittee Chairperson
Department of Plant Pathology
Cornell University

The Diagnostics Subcommittee held a conference call on September 14, 2006. During this meeting a number of issues were addressed. Complete minutes from this meeting can be found on the [NPDN web site diagnostic subcommittee page](#) (login required).

Topics of discussion during the most recent conference call included:

- A report on the suggestion to include Entomology links on the web site.
- A report on the Provisional Lab Listing for the web site.
- An inquiry about which labs were not uploading to the National Repository.
- The addition of an Entomologist from each region to the Subcommittee.
- A report on how the NPDN Diagnostic Clinic contact page has been updated and is posted to the NPDN web site.

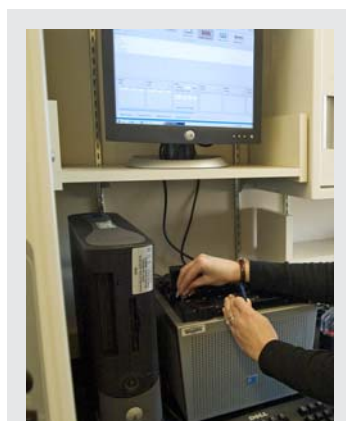
- Preparations for the upcoming IT-Diagnosticians Meeting, October 16-18, 2006.
- The agenda for the NPDN section of the Kanuga/Ornamental Workshop for Disease and Insects (former Crossnore meeting).
- The possibility of three 20 minute presentations for the Diagnostic section of the National Meeting.
- The BIOREBA Equipment Offer.

The next meeting will be held on October 12, 2006.

Training Opportunity: Real-Time PCR Workshop

A workshop on real-time PCR for applied plant pathologists will be held at the **University of Kentucky on January 23-25, 2007 and again on February 27-March 1, 2007**. Participants will execute and interpret four real-time PCR experiments, extract DNA, and run a gel. Topics include theory of real-time PCR, experimental controls, PCR inhibition, use of PCR kits, licensing, minimizing sample contamination, and troubleshooting.

For more information, contact Paul Vincelli (pvincell@uky.edu).
[Note: workshops are filling up fast; both are half-full]



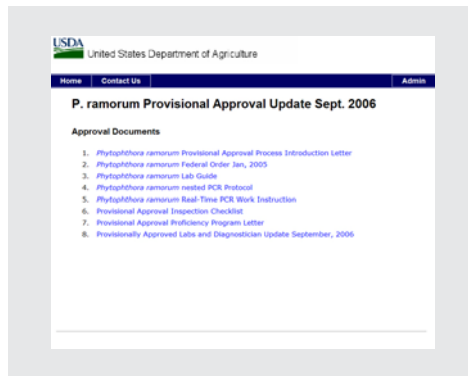
Real-time PCR (Photo Kent Loeffler, Cornell University)

Now Available! Listing of Laboratories Provisionally Approved for *P. ramorum* Testing

A listing of diagnostic laboratories provisionally approved to conduct *P. ramorum* testing is now available on the [USDA APHIS-PPQ-CPHST *P. ramorum* Provisional Approval Update Sept. 2006 web page](#).

Other documents found on this page include:

- Provisional approval process introduction letter
- *P. ramorum* federal order, January 2005
- *P. ramorum* lab guide
- *P. ramorum* nested PCR protocol
- *P. ramorum* real-time PCR protocol
- Provisional approval inspection checklist
- Provisional approval proficiency program letter



Training and Education Subcommittee Update

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

The NPDN Training and Education Subcommittee met for their regularly scheduled monthly conference call on Monday, August 21, 2006. The August conference call contained few updates and was very brief. Highlights of

the call included the following:

- Gerry Snyder (Kansas State University) reported that two of the modules for the Crop Biosecurity Training Program were almost ready for review. Gerry Snyder and Cindy Richardson-Decker (North Carolina State University) will be contacting individuals to review these two modules.
- Amanda Hodges reported that several improvements were still under development with the NPDN training site <http://cbc.at.ufl.edu/>. Please continue to contact Amanda achodges@ufl.edu to report specific problems with the site.

Position Available with California Department of Food and Agriculture

A position is now available for a diagnostic plant pathologist at the CDFA Plant Pest Diagnostics Center. This position will close on **October 13, 2006**.

Please contact Timothy Tidwell (TTIDWELL@CDFA.CA.GOV or 916-262-1132) for a description of this position and how to apply.

Continued on page 4...

Diagnostic Updates

Continued from page 3....

- Dick Hoenisch suggested the development of crop specific modules for training. He is currently working with other specialists to develop an ‘urban horticulture/forestry’ training module.

Full meeting minutes are available on the [NPDN web site Training and Education Subcommittee page](#) (login required).

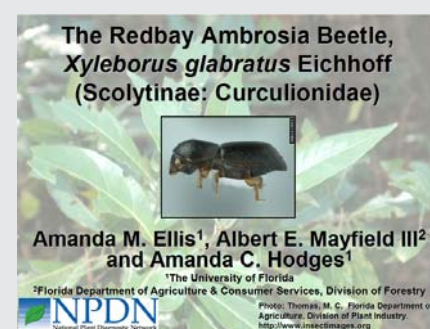
The NPDN Training and Education Subcommittee met for their monthly conference call on Monday, September 18, 2006. Several key updates and topics were discussed on the call including the following:

- The Mission of the NPDN (Module 1) for the Crop Biosecurity Training Program is currently under review. An example of this module will be available for the larger committee once reviewer comments have been incorporated.
- Several issues relating to photo submission for all future NPDN training modules were discussed. Gerry Snyder will lead the development of a draft document describing the process of solicitation of image submission to a photo database prior to use in a NPDN training module.
- Two draft pest specific modules (*Xyleborus glabratus* and the Africanized honeybee) were posted on the NPDN Training and Education Subcommittee web page for the committee’s information and general

feedback. These modules are currently under review. Once reviewer comments have been fully incorporated, modules will be posted on the WWW side of the new NPDN Training Site. These training modules will provide example formats for authors to submit training materials to the NPDN. See the NPDN First Detector Educator Training Manual, 2nd Edition, for more information.

- Amanda Hodges reported that a few user problems have been detected with the session organizer and participant registration information on the NPDN Training Site. We plan to finalize the debugging of these errors by no later than Monday, September 25, 2006. Please continue to send problem reports to Amanda Hodges achodges@ufl.edu

Full meeting minutes are available on the [NPDN web site Training and Education Subcommittee page](#) (login required).



One of the two new pest specific modules that are currently being reviewed. The second module is on the Africanized Honeybee.

Training and Education Web Site Update

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

Unfortunately, we have had some technical problems with the new NPDN Training Site <http://cbc.at.ufl.edu/>. We apologize for any problems you have had in entering session or participant data. Thanks in advance for your patience and for reporting problems as they occur.

Important Notices About the Training and Education Web Site

Notice If you are planning to enter data into the NPDN system, please wait until the week of September 25, 2006.

Notice If you have entered data during September 11-22, 2006, it is possible that errors occurred in the reporting of your data. Please contact Amanda Hodges achodges@ufl.edu if you do not notice the data you have entered appearing in the system after September 25, 2006.

Notice Please continue to report problems to Amanda Hodges.

Notice We have had some suggestions to improve the user interface layout for the new NPDN Training Site. Some of these improved features should be available by September 25, 2006.

Exercise Subcommittee Update

Mary McKellar
Department of Plant
Pathology
Cornell University

The NPDN Exercise Subcommittee held a conference call on August 24, 2006. Full minutes of this meeting can be found on the [NPDN web site Exercise Subcommittee page](#) (login required).

Topics of discussion on the conference call consisted of:

- Composition and membership of the committee
- Progress of exercise program to date
- Suggestions for changes to the program (i.e. types of exercises, exercise procedures, personnel, etc.)
- Governance of committee and mission statement for NPDN Governance document
- Exercise committee web site maintenance
- Involvement of regional exercise coordinators
- Partnership with APHIS full scale exercises
- Partnership with the NRI training grant project

A major outcome of this conference call was that the facilitation of exercises will now be led and coordinated entirely by the Regional Exercise Coordinators (Marietta Ryba-White, GPDN, Sandy Perry, NCPDN, Mary McKellar, NEPDN and Carrie Harmon, SPDN) with support from the National Exercise Coordinator (Carla Thomas, WPDN).

Continued on page 6...

Exercise Updates

Continued from page 5....

Trainings for Regional Exercise Coordinators for exercise facilitation and the use of PDIS for exercises were scheduled during this conference call. Exercise facilitation training was conducted on August 30, 2006 by Carla Thomas. All regional exercise coordinators attended this training as well as a training conducted by Will Baldwin on the use of PDIS for conducting exercises held on September 20, 2006.

The next conference call will be held on October 2, 2006 ET.

Topics discussed during this conference call included:

- Updates on the status of converting the term “Abiotic Pathology” to “Abiotic Disorder”.
- Guidelines progress.
- Preparation for the Upcoming IT-Diagnosticians Meeting, October 16-18, 2006, Kansas City, MO, Phase 2 meeting.
- Specific questions on “How To” submit through the system.
- Review of the EPA HOST CODE listing beginning with Genera listed alphabetically under A and B.

The next meeting will be held on October 12, 2006.

National Database

National Database Subcommittee Update

Karen L. Snover-Clift
National Database

Subcommittee Chairperson
Department of Plant Pathology
Cornell University

The National Database Subcommittee met on September 13, 2006 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 addressed. Please refer to the [NPDN web site National Database Subcommittee page](#) (login required), for complete minutes of this meeting.

Regional Updates



North Central Region

Phytophthora ramorum Confirmed on Viburnum in Indiana Retail Store

Karen Rane and Gail Ruhl
Senior Plant Disease Diagnosticians and
Co-Directors
Purdue University

A viburnum sample collected from a retail garden store in Portage, Indiana was confirmed positive for *Phytophthora ramorum* in July.

Continued on page 7....

Continued from page 6....

The sample of *V. plicatum* 'Mariesii' was collected as part of a trace forward survey of nursery stock shipped from an Oregon supplier. This is the first time *P. ramorum* has been detected in Indiana, where surveys as part of the National *Phytophthora ramorum* Nursery Survey program have been conducted by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and Purdue University Plant and Pest Diagnostic Laboratory since 2004.

Customers who purchased host plants this spring and summer from the retail store have been encouraged, through newspaper articles and the local Cooperative Extension office, to submit symptomatic samples to the Plant and Pest Diagnostic Laboratory for testing.

For more information, please view the [Indiana Department of Natural Resources Press Release; Plant Pathogen Found in State for First Time at Portage Store](#)

Entire State of Iowa Quarantined for Pine Shoot Beetle

USDA APHIS-PPQ has quarantined all counties in Iowa for the Pine Shoot Beetle (PSB), *Tomicus piniperda*. This quarantine comes after the recent discovery of PSB in two counties (Dubuque and Scott) in Iowa.

For more information, please visit on the web:

[NAPPO Phytosanitary Alert System: Quarantine of Entire State of Iowa for Pine Shoot Beetle](#)

[APHIS-PPQ Pine Shoot Beetle Fact Sheet](#)



Northeast Region

***Phytophthora ramorum* Confirmed in Pennsylvania**

Phytophthora ramorum has been recently confirmed in Pennsylvania (PA).

This is the second confirmation of *P. ramorum* in PA. The first finding of this pathogen in PA was on a bonsai Camellia that was shipped from a mail order company from California in 2004.

The most recent confirmation was made on Rhododendrons sampled at a Delaware County nursery as part of the National survey.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture plans to work cooperatively with the USDA to determine the extent of the spread of this pathogen throughout Pennsylvania.

For more information on this finding, please view the [Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture press release: Agriculture Department Announces Detection of Plant Disease.](#)

Regional Updates



Symptoms caused by *P. ramorum* on Rhododendron. (Photo Joseph O'Brien www.forestryimages.org)

Regional Updates

Chrysanthemum White Rust Found in Pennsylvania

On September 15, 2006, Chrysanthemum White Rust (CWR) symptoms caused by the obligate pathogen, *Puccinia horiana*, were detected on seven potted Chrysanthemums at a large national retailer in Pittsburgh as part of a routine Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey conducted by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

The infected plants were from a farming facility in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania where CWR was found in a single block at one end of a ten acre field. The National CWR Management Plan for Exclusion and Eradication is currently being implemented at this location.

Trace forward and trace backward surveys are underway in order to determine the impact of this CWR finding across the United States especially since this is the peak season for Chrysanthemum sales.

More information about this finding and CWR can be found on the web at:

[NAPPO Phytosanitary Alert System: Chrysanthemum White Rust, *Puccinia horiana*, Found in Pennsylvania](#)

[APHIS-PPQ Chrysanthemum White Rust Web Page](#)



Lower surface of *Puccinia horiana*-infected chrysanthemum leaf, showing buff pink teliosori. (Photo Anne-Sophie Roy, European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization www.forestryimages.org)

National Events

October 16-17, 2006: [IT-Diagnosticians Meeting](#), Kansas City, MO.
More information to follow!

November 29-December 1, 2006: [National Soybean Rust Symposium](#),
St. Louis, Missouri

December 3-6, 2006 and December 7-8, 2006: [4th International Bemisia Workshop
and International Whitefly Genomics Workshop](#), Hawk's Cay Resort, Duck Key,
Florida

December 10-13, 2006: [Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting](#),
Indianapolis, IN

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

Regional Events

November 7-9, 2006, [APS Northeastern Division Meeting](#), Burlington, VT

Upcoming Events



Mary McKellar, Editor
NEPDN
Cornell University