Annual Meeting Update
Annual Meeting Planning Team
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Department of Plant Pathology
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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.

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 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]
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

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@CDF.A.CA.GOV or 916-262-1132) for a description of this position and how to apply.

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.

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- 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.

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).

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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.
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**

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**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

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:

- **APHIS-PPQ Chrysanthemum White Rust Web Page**
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


Regional Events

**November 7-9, 2006,** APS Northeastern Division Meeting, Burlington, VT

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