

First Detector Network News
A Newsletter for the NPDN First Detector Community

NPDN Giving Increasing Attention to Southern Rust ~ P. Vincelli

NPDN diagnosticians, Extension specialists, and seed company representatives have recorded a number of cases of southern rust of corn in the past several years, with some destructive outbreaks occurring in several regions. In my own experience in Kentucky, southern corn rust was found much earlier and was much more prevalent in 2010 than in any years since I joined the faculty in 1990.

Southern rust, caused by *Puccinia polysora*, is much more threatening than common rust (*Puccinia sorghi*), because most corn hybrids grown in the continental U.S. are susceptible to this disease. There is concern about a possible increasing threat from this pathogen for the following rea-

sons:

1. Corn acreage has been increasing in Mexico (Fig. 1) and southern Florida, where *P. polysora* overwinters.
2. Corn acreage has also been increasing in the Lower Mississippi Valley (Fig. 2), a “staging” region for *P. polysora* from which inoculum can build up and blow northward to threaten the Corn Belt.

NPDN members are responding to this potential threat in several ways. For one, NPDN members are actively communicating within and outside the NPDN about recognition and early detection of the disease—through list servers, scientific meetings, and other

venues. NPDN members are educating First Detectors and agricultural producers about this rust disease, its biology, and recognition. NPDN members are also collaborating with USDA scientists in the development of PCR-based molecular techniques for rapid and sensitive detection and discrimination of corn rust species, which should be useful for both early diagnosis and as well as monitoring continental movement of this rust fungus.

This story is continued on [page 2](#).

Highlights:

- New Exotic Mealybug in South Florida: *Nipaecoccus viridis* (Newstead). Read alert [HERE](#).
- Scientist find a new threat to Hawaii’s tomato crop. [HERE](#).
- Removal of Quarantined Area in Los Angeles county, California for White Striped Fruit Fly. [HERE](#)
- Removal of Quarantined in the Imperial Beach area of San Diego county, California for Mediterranean Fruit Fly. [HERE](#).
- As a result of the national Emerald Ash Borer Survey APHIS has confirmed the EAB in Kentucky. Read about it [HERE](#).

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Coming Soon to NPDN April 2010! Emerald Ash Borer Monitoring and Management Training Modules

These modules were developed by: Eric Wiseman, Sarah Dickinson, Dave Close and Heather Boyd (Virginia Tech). Module Objectives: Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive wood boring pest that is native to Asia. Since its discovery in southeastern Michigan in 2002, it has killed millions of native ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) trees in the mid-western United States and Canada. Experts predict

that EAB could spread throughout 25 eastern states over the next ten years without effective suppression measures. A key to slowing EAB spread is early detection and rapid response, which requires education of citizens and resource professionals. This on-line course provides an overview of EAB ecology and empower learners to effectively detect and man-

age EAB in their communities.

Content:

1. Introduction
2. Ecology
3. Identifying EAB and its Hosts
4. Monitoring
5. Management
6. Information Resources

There is also an possibility of CEU's from ISA, VNLA and SAF upon successful completion of the online module.

Slowing the spread of Laurel Wilt in Florida along with updates from DPI. Video [here](#).

GPNDN Webinar Series 2010 (starting Feb 17, 2010)

The [GPNDN Webinar Series 2010](#) kicks off 2/17/10 with a seminar entitled "Nuisance Aquatic Pests".

The webinar series features speakers from uni-

versities and government agencies across the country. Topics include: invasive pests, modeling & updates on some diseases. These topics are relevant to pest management specialist & diagnosticians in

plant pathology, entomology, & weed science. For more information please contact Linnea Skoglund (406) 994-5150 or diagnostics@montana.edu

NPDN Giving Increased Attention con't....

Last but not least, with the help of USDA, the ipmPIPE (<http://www.ipmpipe.org/>) is expanding its capacity so that interested corn producers, scientists, and First Detectors can moni-

tor the extent and progress of southern corn rust in 2010.

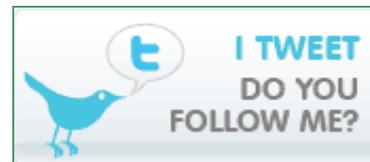
One always hopes that potentially destructive diseases never cause significant damage, but it has been gratifying for me

to see how well our network is "getting out in front" of this potential threat. Stay tuned...

This article along with the figures referenced can be viewed [HERE](#).

Training and Other Updates

- If you are a new First Detector or if you haven't done so yet please check out the online training modules. Those can be found [HERE](#).
- [Webcast 2/24/10 Urban Natural Resources Institute](#). This webcast will present the findings of a study recently completed that examined how private landowners obtain info on stewardship & management of their forest landscapes.
- [Workshop: 3/12-13/10 Whitney Marine Labs, St. Augustine, FL. UF Honey Bee Research and Extension Lab will be offering the 3rd annual Bee College.](#) Bee College is the largest educational honey bee event and is open to everyone. Beginner, advanced, and classes for those who don't even keep bees are offered.
- [Workshop: 5/4-6/2010, Gainesville, FL.](#) The NPDN USDA-APHIS PPQ's National Identification Service, is sponsoring an [Adult Woodborer and Bark Beetle Identification Workshop at the University of Florida](#). **The deadline for the pre-registration expression of interest form is 19 February 2010.** Applicants will be notified by 26 February of their acceptance.
- [Workshop: 5/17-20/10 University Park, Pennsylvania.](#) [NPDN/PSU Plant Disease Diagnostic Workshop](#). This workshop is geared toward plant diagnosticians of all levels.
- [Soybean Rust Short Course: 8/26-27/2010.](#) UF-NFREC, Quincy, FL. This course has been designed with the agricultural specialist or consultant in mind. Please follow the link for more information and registration.
- [Workshop: 10/11-14/10 Miami, FL.](#) [UF-CTA Potential Invasive Pests Workshop](#). This highly relevant workshop targets regulatory agencies, growers and extension agents.



Don't forget, you can now follow the NPDN on Twitter. Get timely, relevant 'tweets' [here!](#)

On the Web

- **The NPDN is pleased to announce that the Chilli Thrips *Scirtothrips dorsalis* E-learning Module has been released! More info [HERE](#).**
- [2010 Green Directory](#) released. This is a comprehensive guide to educational resources for Massachusetts agricultural & landscape industry professionals.
- Oregon State University Pesticide Recertification Courses for 2010 [HERE](#).
- Read the WPDN Quarterly Newsletter [HERE](#).
- GPDN Webinar Series kicks off Feb. 17, 2010 with 'Nuisance Aquatic Pests. Check out the series in full [HERE](#).



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The NPDN is a network of state and federal officials, land grant universities, and first detectors whose mission is to detect, diagnose, and disseminate information regarding high consequence plant disease or pests. The NPDN was established in 2002 in response to a need for greater agricultural security. Over the past eight years the NPDN has grown into an internationally respected consortium of plant diagnostic laboratories. The five regions that make up the [NPDN](#) are the: [NEPDN](#), [SPDN](#), [NCPDN](#), [GPDN](#), and [WPDN](#). Please feel free to browse the links to the various regions to get a better idea of what is going on in your part of the country.



Integrated Pest Management...

- Principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) [HERE](#).
- Penn State IPM [HERE](#).
- IPM institute of North America [HERE](#).
- North Central IPM Center [HERE](#).
- Northeast IPM Center [HERE](#).
- Southern IPM Center [HERE](#).
- Western IPM Center [HERE](#).
- Biological Control Information Center (NC State) [HERE](#).
- Radcliffe's IPM WORLD TEXT-BOOK [HERE](#).
- California School IPM website [HERE](#).
- University of Florida National School IPM Information [HERE](#).
- IPMnet news [HERE](#).

Employment Opportunities...

To view this month's employment opportunities please click [HERE](#).