With the cool, wet weather that much of the Southeastern region has been experiencing this spring also comes Late Blight. This fungal disease is not normally a problem in large commercial fields due to regular application of fungicides but for the home gardener Late Blight can be problematic. Late Blight spreads rapidly, and affects both the leaves and the fruit of tomatoes. Late Blight also affects potatoes and was the culprit responsible for the Irish Potato Famine of the late 1800’s. The following description of symptoms of Late Blight were taken from an extension fact sheet published by Ohio State University. That fact sheet can be viewed in its entirety here.

“Some of the symptoms of late blight are pale green, water-soaked spots, often beginning at leaf tips or edges. The circular or irregular leaf lesions are often surrounded by a pale yellowish-green border that merges with healthy tissue. Lesions enlarge rapidly and turn dark brown to purplish-black. During periods of high humidity and leaf wetness, a cottony, white mold growth is usually visible on lower leaf surfaces at the edges of lesions. In dry weather, infected leaf tissues quickly dry up and the white mold growth disappears”. To view a pdf from Bugwood that has some strategies for management of Late Blight please click here.
News from the NEPDN...

NEPDN 2009 Advanced First Detector Webinars

By Mary McKellar

The NEPDN has hosted two advanced first detector webinars this spring with four total planned for spring/summer of 2009. The first webinar, “The Art and Science of Diagnosis: Insect Pests on Plants” was presented by Carolyn Klass, Senior Extension Associate, Department of Entomology at Cornell University on April 23, 2009 and was viewed by approximately 55 participants from all over the Northeast region. The second presentation “Art and Science of Diagnosis: Plant Diseases” was presented by Karen Snover-Clift, NEPDN associate director and director of the Cornell Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic on May 14, 2009 with over 40 participants from all 12 states in the Northeast region. Two more webinars are planned for June and July. These will be presented by Dave Clement, Karen Rane and Mary Kay Malinoski of the Home and Garden Center at the University of Maryland. The June and July webinars will focus on problems of woody ornamentals and will reflect the samples that are currently being received by the diagnostic laboratory during those time periods. Live demonstrations of sample diagnosis will be included in these presentations. Contact Mary McKellar (mem40@cornell.edu) if you are interested in registering for these programs.

Although the NEPDN regional center continues to learn the ins and outs of Adobe Connect, the presentations to date have been well received with only a few minor technological difficulties. Lillian Dorchak, a master gardener in New Jersey wrote, “Thanks so much for this opportunity, it is really valuable, especially at our Master Gardener Helpline here in Hunterdon County New Jersey.”

Highlights continued.....

NEW! SOD update. Click HERE

NEW! Updated map of Africanized honey bees in the US. To view map and for other information please click HERE

NEW! Cherry Vinegar Fly in California. View the pest alert from L.A. county HERE.
Training and other updates...

Please join Dave Clement, Karen Rane, and Mary Kay Malinoski as they host 2 upcoming webinars. They will cover problems of woody ornamentals reflecting samples that are currently being received, and the webinars will also feature live demonstration of sample diagnosis. For more information or to register please click here.

Webinars will be held...

- June 3, 2009
- July 15, 2009

Multi-site Pest update via Poly com in Florida July 21, 2009

- To learn more click here
- Get registered and learn more click here

Soybean Short Course in Quincy, Florida at NFREC. August 26-27, 2009. CEU’s available.

- See agenda here, and get registered here.

7th annual NE Ohio Lawn –care seminar June 18, 2009 in Wooten, Ohio. If taking care of lawns is your business and you would like to learn more about the latest technologies and management practices then please consider signing up.

- For more information please click here.

The 2009 Great Ideas Summer Conference, Sylvan Nursery at Dartmoor Farm, Dartmouth, MA will be held July 22. Register now!

- You can register here.

Southeastern Herbicide Applicator Conference Sept 22-24 Panama City, FL.

- Information regarding CEU’s and registration here.

On the web...

Join us for the second annual NPDN meeting in Miami 12/2009. More...

2009 Plant Board Meetings. More..

UF/IFAS Pest Alert on the web here.

NEW!! Emerald Ash Borer management bulletin. It can be viewed or printed here.

NEW!! June 2009 report on Sudden Oak Death. View here.
FLEPPC member publishes article in Ornamental Outlook

LeRoy Rodgers (SFWMD), FLEPPC board member and annual symposium program chair, recently had an article published online in the May 2009 Ornamental Outlook magazine. It can be viewed at: http://www.ornamentaloutlook.com/magazine/?storyid=725

The article provides a brief overview of the impacts of invasive plants, and an explanation of the various plant lists (both regulatory and non-regulatory). Most importantly, it reaches the ornamental plant industry where accurate information and positive communication is always a good thing. Congratulations to Mr. Rodgers!

92nd annual meeting of the Florida Entomological Society

Join your colleagues for the 92nd annual meeting of the Florida Entomological Society July 26-29, 2009 at the Sanibel Harbour Resort and Spa. The meeting features two workshops both offering FDACS CEUs. Those workshops are: Biology and Control of Bed Bugs with Phil Koehlert and Roberto Pereira, and Turf and Ornamental Pest Identification Workshop with Lyle Buss, Scott Ferguson, Catherine Mannion, Doug Caldwell and Stephen Brown. Information regarding abstracts, presentations and poster presentations can be found in the March newsletter pages 5-7. For more information on the meeting please click here.

New Federal Orders for Torrado Virus and Tomato Severe Leaf Curl Virus

These have NOT been detected in the US yet however the virus has been found in: Spain (Murcia and Islas Canarias), Hungary (eradicated), Poland (glasshouse tomatoes), Panama (field tomatoes in several regions), and in the Mexican states of San Luis Potosí and Morelos. These states are situated in the north-central and south-central region of Mexico. For more details please click here.

JOBS

- Plant nematologist with Syngenta. This job is located in Research Triangle Park in North Carolina. Job requires a Ph.D. or MS degree in plant nematology.
- Invasive Plants Coordinator, University of Georgia, Tifton, Georgia. Qualifications: BS or higher (MS preferred) in one of the following or related fields: Forestry, Natural Resources, Environmental Sciences, Ecology, Weed Science, Botany, Agriculture, Biology or related field.

For more information and to view full listings for above jobs please click here.
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 five regions that make up the NPDN are: NEPDN, SPDN, NCPDN, GPDN, and WPDN.