

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

**Late Blight and Downy Mildew Popping up Again**

Farmers and gardeners are urged to be on the lookout for both late blight and downy mildew. Recent storms have created weather conditions favorable to both late blight and downy mildew. Downy mildew was confirmed June 23 on cucumbers in northeastern Ohio this follows reports from the week prior of downy mildew in Ontario Canada. Around the same time as downy mildew was being confirmed in Ohio late blight was being confirmed in east-central Ohio showing up on tomatoes. This confirmation of late blight in Ohio follows confirmations of late blight on tomatoes, and/or potatoes from Connecticut, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, New York

and Pennsylvania. According to Sally Miller a vegetable pathologist with Ohio St. University Extension and the Ohio Ag Research and Development Center this year is different in that both of these diseases have shown up earlier than ever before in Ohio. This outbreak is not expected to be as bad as the 2009 outbreak. The main reason for this is that the 2009 outbreak was exacerbated by 'big box stores' selling infected plants which caused the disease to rapidly spread across the country. The current outbreak is believed in part to be related to plants that were not disposed of properly. As has been discussed the pathogen requires live tissue to survive. Po-

tatoes pose the greatest problem for overwintering of the pathogen. The infected tubers that don't freeze or decay during the winter months can carry *Phytophthora infestans* over the winter and into the spring. Tomatoes won't carry late blight over because freezing kills the entire plant. Late blight can not survive on stakes or cages nor can late blight be transferred via seeds from infected plants.

There are some great resources available to answer questions about late blight including a marvelous [webinar](#) in 9 parts uploaded to youtube.com. Just follow the link. Also [UMass Amherst Extension's Resources and Alerts](#) is extremely informative.

**Highlights:**

- ***Bactrocera dorsalis*:** Population of Oriental fruit fly discovered in the North Highlands area of Sacramento county, CA. Sacramento and Placer counties have been quarantined [HERE](#).
- ***Ceratitis capitata*** Mediterranean fruit fly found in Palm Beach county, FL [HERE](#).
- Update on Emerald Ash Borer in Canada. A first report of the presence of EAB in Brantford, Ontario [HERE](#).

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## Medfly Outbreak in Florida

On June 2, 2010 in Boca Raton, FL a total of 30 medfly adults and 11 larvae were discovered during a routine trapping inspection. This marks the first time in 12 years that Florida has had an outbreak of *Ceratitis capitata*. These destructive pests attack over 260 different fruits, vegetables and nuts.

Florida's response to the medfly outbreak has been swift and prompt. The first line of defense has been to release sterile males into the area where the original 30 were discovered.

Female medflies generally only mate once in their lifetime and will even lay

eggs after sexual contact with the sterile males. This obviously results in non-viable eggs. As of July 3, 2010 sterile males had been released within a 12 square mile radius of the quarantine area and an additional 350,000 sterile males had been released in the target area. The lifecycle of the medfly is 21 days and under ideal conditions a female can lay 800 eggs.

"No Fruit Movement" signs have gone up all over the interstate and state officials have gone to the public for help in containing the medfly problem. Through public meetings and news and radio ads they are request-

ing that people don't move fruit off of their property. Mark Fagan spokesperson for FDACS is also begging homeowners to cooperate when officials come to investigate or seize fruit. "We're trying to prevent this from spreading," he said. "It's a shame we have to do it that way, but it's what we have to do." For more information please see the links listed below.

- [SunSentinel.com](http://SunSentinel.com)
- [FDACS DPI information page](#)
- [Pest Alert](#)



*Ceratitis capitata*  
(Medfly) Photo: Scott Bauer

## Wheat struggling in Ohio

To much rain during the flowering season has led to an outbreak of head scab. An OSU report says wheat in some parts of Ohio are experiencing upwards of 60% incidence of head scab. The fungal pathogen that

causes head scab also produces mycotoxins, most notably vomitoxin in the grain that can be unsafe for livestock if consumed in high levels. Agricultural officials are advising farmers to have the grain tested for vomitoxin lev-

els before feeding the grain or grain by-products to livestock. The weather conditions have also been ideal for [stagnosporia](#). Between head scab and stagnosporia most of the wheat in the area will be used for livestock feed.

## Training and Other Updates

- **First Detector Training:** 7/21/10, McKinney, TX. [Citrus Greening/Huanglongbing](#).
- **Webinar:** 7/22, 7/27 & 8/3. [Learn to protect your business from Chrysanthemum White Rust](#).
- **Conference** 7/24-28, 2010 Pennsylvania. Penn State Center for Pollinator Research is sponsoring the [1st International Conference on Pollinator Biology, Health, and Policy](#).
- **Webinar, “Thousand Cankers Disease”.** 7/29/10. More information will be posted [HERE](#).
- **Webinar, “Bleeding Canker of Horsechestnut”.** 8/24/10. More information will be posted [HERE](#).
- [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.
- [17th Annual Ornamental Workshop 9/20-24](#) Hendersonville, NC. A great workshop for anyone (students, diagnosticians, specialists, regulatory officials, private consultants..etc) interested in ornamentals.
- **Workshop: 10/11-14/10** Miami, FL. [UF-](#)
- [CTA Potential Invasive Pests Workshop](#). This highly relevant workshop targets regulatory agencies, growers and extension agents.
- [Master Beekeeper Program 10/28/2010](#), Estero, FL
- [25th Annual Tomato Disease Workshop 11/16-18/2010](#), Tampa, FL.



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

## On the Web

- [Aliens of Xamayca](#) (a quarterly newsletter on the non-indigenous species of Jamaica .
- Follow CDFCA (California Department of Food and Agriculture) on Twitter. Get those Tweets
- [HERE](#).
- [The Plant Pathology Internet Guide Book](#) - a subject oriented internet resource guide for plant pathology, applied entomology & all related fields.
- [WPDN Newsletter](#) (now in a new format!)
- [The Western Front](#) (an IPM newsletter)
- [An Online Guide to Plant Disease Control](#) (Oregon State University Extension)



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Click [here](#) if you would like to receive the newsletter via email or to submit articles for inclusion in the next newsletter.

*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...

Please follow [link](#) for employment opportunities.