

FIRST DETECTOR NETWORK NEWS



NPDN
National Plant Diagnostic Network



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New Educational Resource on Invasive Species Launched

Stephanie Stocks, Department of Entomology and Nematology, University of Florida

Protect U.S., the Community Invasive Species Network, was launched in October 2010. It is concerned with protecting the U.S. from exotic, invasive species through education. It is a collaborative partnership between the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN), Regional Integrated Pest Management Centers, United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine (USDA-APHIS-PPQ), National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), the National Plant Board (NPB), your local Land Grant University Cooperative Extension Service, and other organizations involved in exotic species extension and regulatory activities. During 2010-2011, e-learning modules (for the general public) and scripted presentations (for educators) will be available on eleven invasive species (featuring some that are already in the U.S. and others that are not here, but for which we need to be aware), plant biosecurity, and select pest and pathogen topics (such as Laurel Wilt and the Redbay Ambrosia Beetle).

E-learning modules include games, interactive quizzes, and certificates of completion. K-12 lesson plans will also be available on select topics. These lesson plans will be correlated to the National Science Education Standards (NSES) as well as the Florida State Department of Education Sunshine State Standards. They will include background information and a scripted presentation for the teacher and an age appropriate experiential learning activity and handout(s) for the students along with a modified version of an e-learning module specifically designed for student use. Please check out their website at www.protectingusnow.org for more information and to view a complete list of invasive species topics. Protect U.S. will also hold a train-the-trainer introductory webinar on Tuesday, February 8, at 3:00 p.m. ET, 2:00 CT, etc. Click [here](#) for a description of the webinar. See the training announcement on page four for information on registering for the webinar.

Editors Note:

Happy New Year! You may have noted that the First Detector Newsletter was not sent out in November or December of 2010. We apologize for the inconvenience. Rachel Brown, one of the editors, has moved on to other responsibilities. We wish her all the best

and thank her for all her hard work. Stephanie Stocks will be taking over Rachel's duties on the newsletter. If you have any question, comments, or content to put in the newsletter, please contact her at ssstocks@ufl.edu or 352-273-3958.

Highlights:

- Protect U.S. website launched
- ID Source, a Gateway to Identification Resources on the Internet
- CPHST Announces Release of New Identification Tools
- SOS Detections in Texas and Louisiana
- Updated EAB Quarantines

ID Source, a Gateway to Identification Resources on the Internet

Julia Scher, USDA, APHIS, PPQ, CPHST

Within the vast collection that is the world wide web are many sites containing tools that can help with identification of plant pest organisms and diseases. Finding them is another matter. ID Source was conceived as a gateway into this identification-themed subset of the web, quickly and efficiently directing users to those websites containing identification aids such as keys, fact sheets, screening aids, and image galleries specifically for identifying pests, weeds, and diseases of concern for plant protection and biosecurity. ID Source is currently in development by the Center for Plant Health Science and Technology (CPHST, within USDA/APHIS/PPQ) in cooperation with Colorado State University.

ID Source aims to save its users from having to search the entire Internet for help by offering a pre-selected, vetted collection of sites that can specifically serve identification, verification, diagnostic, and screening needs (we call such web sites "ID Aids"). With ID Source, users can perform tailored searches leading to more fruitful and helpful results than standard Internet search engine searches can provide.

For ID Source to be successful as a valued interactive information source, it must be dynamic and relevant to users. The true power of ID Source will only be realized if its collection of ID Aids is kept current by being

honed and expanded many-fold through user participation.

User participation is the key to success; ID Source would be the place to go not only to find useful ID Aids, but to contribute ID Aid suggestions, contribute an ID Aid you've created, rate and review ID Aids, and provide feedback about how well ID Source is working for you and how we should improve it. The more participation from users, the more valuable and relevant ID Aids will be collected and the more valuable ID Source will become for all.

We are currently focusing on collecting ID Aid suggestions. A particularly fruitful avenue we have pursued successfully, is to gather experts' identification-related browser favorites (aka bookmarks). By doing this, results from hours of searching done by multiple experts is concentrated in one place, boosting ID Source's ID Aid gathering power by orders of magnitude, thereby benefitting all its users.

We appeal to you, the NPDN First Detector Community, to help ID Source grow by contributing your identification-related browser favorites or bookmarks. If you'd like to contribute, please click [here](#) and follow the simple instructions provided.

Watch for news of the ID Source beta version, to be launched at the end of this month, in the next First Detectors newsletter!

About NPDN:

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.



CPHST Announces Release of New Identification Tools

Stephanie Stocks, Department of Entomology and Nematology, University of Florida

CPHST announced the release of two new identification tools developed using Lucid version 3.4 software: *A Resource for Pests and Diseases of Cultivated Palms* and *Xyleborini Ambrosia Beetles: An Identification Tool to the World Genera*. The palm resource was developed in partnership with Florida A&M University, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services – Division of Plant Industry, and University of Florida to support federal, state, and county plant protection agencies and other organizations involved with surveillance, detection, and monitoring of pests and diseases associated with cultivated palms. This resource includes

information on palm identification, screening aids, palm symptoms as well as information on beetles, scales, and mite pests. To preview this resource, click [here](#). The ambrosia beetle resource was developed in partnership with Michigan State University, North Carolina State University, University of California, and University of Wisconsin. It includes information on all 36 genera in Xyleborini including fact sheets, keys, and illustrated characters. It will be part of a larger resource to be released in 2011 entitled *A Resource for Wood Boring Beetles of the World*. To preview the ambrosia beetle resource, click [here](#).

Sweet Orange Scab of Citrus Found in Texas and Louisiana

Stephanie Stocks, Department of Entomology and Nematology, University of Florida

Sweet Orange Scab (SOS) is caused by the fungal pathogen *Elsinoë australis* which attacks mainly all sweet oranges and some tangerine cultivars. It differs from common citrus scab (caused by *Elsinoë fawcettii*) in that it attacks only the fruit whereas common citrus scab attacks both leaves and fruit. The damage is superficial, not affecting the internal fruit quality. This damage comes in the form of corky, wart-like pustules that are tan to gray in color and are often flatter than the lesions produced by common citrus scab. Short distance spread of this disease occurs through

wind blown spores and moisture (usually rain splash) while long distance spread is usually through the movement of infected fruit by humans. SOS was initially detected by USDA-APHIS-PPQ in July 2010 on residential lemon and tangerine trees in [Harris County, Texas](#). Followup surveys also detected the pathogen on Satsuma trees on a small farm in Orange County (100 miles east of the initial find). In August 2010, SOS was also confirmed in [Orleans Parish, Louisiana](#) on a single residential lime tree. Click [here](#) to view the SPRO letter.

New Emerald Ash Borer Quarantines

Stephanie Stocks, Department of Entomology and Nematology, University of Florida

The spread of an invasive beetle, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) (*Agrilus planipennis*), is apparent with the new federal domestic quarantine orders. A quarantine order was issued in August 2010 for Allamakee County in Iowa, Bedford County in Pennsylvania, and Clarke and Frederick Counties and the City of Winchester in Virginia. Six days after this, another 31 counties in Pennsylvania were added to the quarantine. Knox and Loudon counties in Tennessee were added that same day. Sixteen counties in New York were

then added in late October. So far, EAB has been found in 15 northeastern states as well as Ontario and Quebec. and is a pest of native ash trees (black, blue, green, pumpkin, and white). Because the natural spread of EAB does not exceed 6 miles per year, quarantine efforts have focused on the movement of ash wood, particularly firewood. It is important that you do not move firewood from one area to another. This applies to other invasive wood boring beetles, not just EAB. For more information on the quarantine, click [here](#).

First Detector Training Opportunities:

- January 20 - First Detector Training for Maple Syrup Producers in Fulton, Ohio- click [here](#) to register
- January 21 - First Detector Training for Maple Syrup Producers in Fredericksburg, Ohio- click [here](#) to register
- January 22 - First Detector Training for Maple Syrup Producers in Burton, Ohio- click [here](#) to register
- January 26 - First Detector Training at the OSU Nursery - Short Course in Columbus, Ohio - click [here](#) to register
- February 8 - Protect U.S. webinar - click [here](#) to register
- February 24 - Online First Detector Training & Pest Update - click [here](#) to register

New Resources:

- A new APHIS website on invasive species called [Hungry Pests](#)
- The Community Invasive Species Network - [Protect U.S.](#)

Employment Opportunities:

- Click [here](#) for more information

Do you tweet?

- Click [here](#) for updates.

Upcoming Meetings:

- February 28 - March 24 marks the National Invasive Species Awareness Week with meetings and workshops held in Washington, D.C. - click [here](#) for more details.
- June 5-7 - the Florida State Horticultural Society Meeting will be held jointly with the Soil and Crop Science Society in St. Petersburg, Florida - click [here](#) for details.
- October 11-14 - the International Master Gardener Conference will be held in Charleston, West Virginia - click [here](#) for more details.
- November 6-8 - the third annual NPDN meeting will be held in San Francisco, California - click [here](#) for more information.

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To submit news items in future editions of the newsletter, contact clharmon@ufl.edu or sstocks@ufl.edu. You can include a short descriptive paragraph, links, and related images or documents – don't forget to include author credits though.

