



The Southern Plant Diagnostic Network

SPDN Newsletter September 2004

Mark your calendars for the **Third Annual Regional Meeting!** November 4-5 in Atlanta, GA.

- **Deadline fast approaching! Early registration and room rate will expire October 1.**
-
- Online registration is available at <https://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/basic/spdn/reg.html>.
- Send your discussion topic ideas to clharmon@ufl.edu

Thank you SC, GA, NC, TX, LA, VA, AL, TN for sending in your subcontracts!

Others: Please get your subcontracts in as soon as possible - the funds will be released when we get your forms to the USDA folks! Remember - we are looking for shorter Plans of Work (2 pages: one page justification of last year's spending and one page of plans for this year's funding). Each state will have \$36,000 to spend in the areas of Training and Education, IT, Diagnostics, and Entomology. The regional budget and related forms are available for use as templates (your "Total Request" should equal \$36,000). [Download the forms](#)

Networking and archiving state newsletters: Let's make use of our regional expertise! We would like to link to your state's agricultural newsletters, especially those with pest information, in order to create one-stop-shopping for pest information and to archive those documents for preservation and future use.

Upcoming Education and Training Events:

The SPDN will host First Detector Training session at the annual Horticultural Inspection Society, Southern Chapter (HISSC) meeting on September 13, 2004 in Baton Rouge, LA. A diverse group of speakers representing Louisiana State University, the University of Arkansas, and the University of Florida will be involved in the training that will include information about exotic pathogens and insects of concern to the southern region, quality and secure sample submission, and digitally assisted diagnosis. For more information about this training, please contact Amanda Hodges achodges@ifas.ufl.edu.

The University of Florida, as part of the State Agricultural Response Team (SART) training, will conduct SPDN first detector training for Florida personnel on September 23, 2004 in Belle Glade, FL. For more information please see the Florida SART webpage at: <http://www.flsart.org/>. North Carolina has also developed a state-level animal/agriculture response organization <http://www.ncsart.org/>. These two SART plans may serve as models for other states to develop SART initiatives. Don't forget that your state's SPDN training could be incorporated into future SART sessions!

Entomology workshop: The SPDN will host an intensive 'Homoptera' workshop <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/homoptera> for general diagnosticians and extension

specialists in Gainesville, FL, from December 9-11, 2004. SPDN entomology state representatives, please remember to either 1) register by October 1, 2004 or 2) provide the name of participants from your state by this date. The deadline for early registration for this training session is October 15, 2004. Currently, individuals that are not one of the two SPDN representatives per state may contact Amanda Hodges achodges@ifas.ufl.edu <<mailto:achodges@ifas.ufl.edu>> and be included on a waiting list.

SPDN Entomology: Interested in the SPDN entomology program and planning to attend the 14th annual ornamentals workshop in Hendersonville, NC from September 27-October 1, 2004? SPDN entomology representatives attending the conference and other interested individuals are welcome to attend an open discussion session that will be held on Tuesday evening of the conference. For more information about this workshop, please see their website at http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/plantpath/orn_wkshop/about_wkshop.html.

SPDN Training and Education: Approximately 200 First Detectors including county extension agents, CCA's, agronomists, and government agency personnel were trained in Virginia on September 1 and 2, 2004. Special emphasis was placed on soybean rust scouting and recognition. Soybean rust, one of the USDA's select agents, is a major concern for U.S. agriculture.

Upcoming SPDN Training and Education:

The SPDN will host First Detector Training session at the annual Horticultural Inspection Society, Southern Chapter (HISSC) meeting on September 13, 2004 in Baton Rouge, LA. A diverse group of speakers representing Louisiana State University, the University of Arkansas, and the University of Florida will be involved in the training that will include information about exotic pathogens and insects of concern to the southern region, quality and secure sample submission, and digitally assisted diagnosis.

First Detector Educator Training will be held on October 20, 2004 in Homestead, FL. Please submit your registration requests on or before October 8, 2004. For more information about this training session, contact Amanda Hodges achodges@ifas.ufl.edu.

NPDN Training and Education: Approximately 40 First Detectors were trained in Iowa on August 20, 2004. Special emphasis was placed on soybean rust training.

Sudden Oak Death Updates:

- **NEW** For the most recent version of the *P. ramorum* diagnostic SOP, visit the Pest Alert page
- **NEW** APHIS update, September 3rd, at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispq/sod/updates/update9-3-04.pdf>
- **NEW** Waiting for PCR results from Beltsville? Beltsville has put together a password-protected spreadsheet for checking on sample results. Please call Carrie for more information at 352-392-3631 xt 254.
- **Let us know** about updates! All 5 regional hub labs are standing by to provide surge relief to labs doing SOD testing. Please call Carrie to coordinate shipments at 352-392-3631 xt 254 or email at CLHarmon@ufl.edu.

Journals for Puerto Rico?

If you have journals/Compendia/books you no longer use or have space for, please email

clharmon@ufl.edu to arrange to have them shipped to Puerto Rico for use at their diagnostic clinic.

First Detector and First Detector Educator testing:

Scantrons are available and can be shipped to you on request. We can even do the grading and enter the registry information for you! Contact Amanda Hodges at (352) 392-1901 xt 122 or

ACHodges@ifas.ufl.edu

Southern Plant Diagnostic Network (SPDN)

© Copyright University of Florida, IFAS All Rights Reserved