Diagnosticians from Indiana, Missouri, South Dakota, Florida, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi and Texas have been creating image sets and diagnostic factsheets to help with the identification of diseases commonly encountered by the diagnostic labs. They feature new imagery captured by diagnosticians combined with existing imagery that has been available in the Bugwood Image Database. Each diagnostic resource has sections describing the pathogen, signs, symptoms, ecology and spread, distribution, management and diagnostic procedures. Where possible, the diagnostic procedures have links to the recipes and techniques listed in the Diagnostician’s Cookbook, so unfamiliar methods can be found easily.

The diagnostic resource pages will be indexed at wiki.bugwood.org/Diagnostic_Resources. As of this writing, 17 diagnostic pages with 21 image sets have been released with more on the way in the coming weeks. The index page features links to the diagnostic profiles as well as separate links for each of the image...
sets that have been created. The links to the image sets also highlight a new feature of the Bugwood Image Database—shareable image series and collections. The image sets can be embedded on any website by selecting the image set and using the embed information found in the “Share” screen. If the collections are ever updated with new imagery, the changes will automatically be shown on any sites using the embedded image set.

Comments on any of the diagnostic resources are welcome and encouraged as are technical questions about using the image sets. Direct comments and questions to Tom Creswell, Carrie Harmon or Joe LaForest (laforest@uga.edu).

Image set for Dutch elm disease (top) and subscription page for the RSS feed for that image set (right).

Symptoms and Signs

Leaf spots start out as pale green to yellow and are slightly swollen, convex-concave blisters that vary in size. As the leaf matures, the spots become necrotic. A layer of asci form on the lower leaf surface (concave side). When fresh, the layer of asci resembles a palisade-like layer that is translucent-white and granular on the leaf surface. The fungus also can deform the entire leaf.

Symptoms and sign of Taphrina caerulescens (leaf blister on oak) from the Diagnostic Resources project.

Joe LaForest authored an article titled "Image RSS Feed Slideshows" in the February 2011 newsletter. The article offers step by step instructions on setting up RSS feeds for any available image set in Bugwood’s image database.

Visit www.npdn.org/newsletter for all archived NPDN newsletters.
PPQ Permits is Now Issuing Electronic Barcoded Shipping Labels

Renee DeVries, USDA-APHIS-PPQ

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has begun to implement electronic barcoded shipping labels for Plant Protection and Quarantine imports, for example PPQ 526 Pest Permits and PPQ 588 Controlled Import Permits (formerly Departmental Permits). These labels are e-mailed as an attached PDF file to the permit holder, who likewise, can then forward the shipping labels electronically to their foreign exporter, saving both time and money. The electronic label file includes instructions on printing (must be printed in color) and attaching (with clean tape) to the exterior of the package. Level-two, eAuthenticated permit holders can request shipping labels as needed by logging into the e-Permit system at https://epermits.aphis.usda.gov.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

UF/IFAS Plant Diagnostic Center

The Southern Plant Diagnostic Network hub lab is hiring a diagnostician/lab manager! The successful candidate will work in a new, 6000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art diagnostic facility that houses well-equipped laboratory space for microscopy to molecular tools, bioassays to biocontainment, plus a full-speed teaching laboratory with space for 24 students. The laboratory is supported by 10–12 students who gain experience and learn diagnostic skills from the diagnostician and lab director. The UF-IFAS Plant Diagnostic Center, housed in the Department of Plant Pathology, processes 3,000+ samples per year from two integrated services: General and Rapid Turfgrass Diagnostic Services. The position requires an MS in Plant Pathology (preferred) or a related discipline with at least a year of diagnostic laboratory experience, as well the ability to communicate effectively with extension clientele, students in the lab and faculty in the department. Support for training and professional development is included, and salary is commensurate with education and experience.

Visit https://jobs.ufl.edu/postings/57177 to read the job description.

Contact Carrie Harmon with any questions at clharmon@ufl.edu.

There will be several PPQ Identifier (entomology) and National Specialists (also entomology) positions with vacancy announcements from APHIS for various locations coming in the next year. Those interested can search on the USAJOBS website or go to our Career Opportunities page (http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/banner/careers) and click on “Positions in APHIS”. Some positions are only open for a week, so it is recommended that anyone interested in these positions check the site frequently.
New Findings on Beetle Flight May Help Control Deadly Walnut Tree Disease

Phys.org

New research from entomologists affiliated with the University of California, Davis, shows how environmental conditions influence the seasonal flight behavior of the walnut twig beetle, which spreads a deadly fungal disease in black walnut and other walnut trees. The research may lead to better control of the disease, now found throughout much of the United States.

Read more at: phys.org/news/2014-09-beetle-flight-deadly-walnut-tree.html#jCp

REGIONAL NEWS

Nematode Found in Washington; Quarantines Unlikely

WSU News

A close relative of the cereal cyst nematode was discovered in Washington for the first time this summer. Scientists don’t believe quarantines will be required but are assessing the significance of the discovery.

“We’ve been dealing with a similar nematode for several years,” said Timothy Murray, a plant pathologist at Washington State University. “This new species will have a comparable impact to the existing one and we’ll use the same treatments for its control.”

Richard Smiley, an Oregon State University professor, discovered the same species, Heterodera filipjevi, in Oregon in 2008 and was responsible for the find in Whitman County, Wash.

The nematode is listed as a quarantine pest by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal Plant Health Inspection Service. The agency can potentially prohibit farmers from planting susceptible crops in infected fields. The pest affects wheat, barley, oats and other wheat-like grasses.

However, Murray doesn’t think quarantines will be required. He is in close communication with the inspection service to develop appropriate responses.

The recommended treatment for the pest is crop rotation and nematode-resistant wheat varieties. These practices keep nematode numbers low, thus reducing damage.

“These nematodes are significant pests around the world,” Murray said. “But there isn’t really a reason to quarantine fields in Washington since the nematode is already established and our farmers know how to manage them.”

Visit news.wsu.edu/2014/09/04/nematode-found-in-washington-quarantines-unlikely/ to read the full article.

Encore Workshop

The WPDN is organizing a second Malacology Workshop focusing on invasive snails and slugs. The dates are June 16–18, 2015 and will be held at the University of California, Davis. Please contact Dick Hoenisch at UCD/WPDN at rwhoenisch@ucdavis.edu for more information.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Meetings

November 16–19, 2014  
Entomology 2014  
Portland, OR

Training/Workshops

September 29–October 3, 2014  
The 19th Ornamental Workshop on Diseases and Insects  
Hendersonville, NC

CONTRIBUTE

Share Tips and News with Your Colleagues

Recently write an article for a trade journal? Do you have a tip, announcement, regional news or network update you would like to include in the NPDN News? Email Rachel McCarthy at rachel.mccarthy@cornell.edu