NEW NATIONAL PLANT DIAGNOSTIC NETWORK PORTAL

Mike Hill & Eileen Luke, CERIS, Purdue University

A new version of the NPDN portal (www.npdn.org) will be rolled out on March 1, 2016. The software has been updated and this version of the portal incorporates several changes. The site will more seamlessly support responsive design making it more mobile friendly. All of the existing regional portals (gpdn.org, ncpdn.org, nepdn.org, sepdn.org, and wpdn.org) have been merged into one overall national site (www.npdn.org) which will reduce the maintenance and support efforts in the coming years.

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USDA Secretary Vilsack Announces $58.25 Million to Protect Agriculture and Plants from Pests and Diseases through 2014 Farm Bill Section 10007*

APHIS Newsroom

On February 11, U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has allocated $58.25 million from Section 10007 of the 2014 Farm Bill. This money will support 434 projects that prevent the introduction or spread of plant pests.

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Issue Highlights

- New ITP identification tool: Hawaiian Scarab ID: Scarab and Stag Beetles of Hawaii and the Pacific
- Upcoming Sentinel Plant Network workshops

Figure 1: New NPDN portal at www.npdn.org.
One of the biggest impacts of the new portal is the implementation of a new login procedure for both the portal (www.npdn.org) and the NPDN National Repository (npdn.ceris.purdue.edu). The login process will now be using a single sign-on authentication which will allow users already logged into the portal to be automatically authenticated on the NPDN National Repository if they have an account on that system. As a result of the new user authentication all users will be required to reset their password upon initial login. Usernames for the sites will continue to be an email address. If anyone experiences any problems please contact NPDN support at npdn@ceris.purdue.edu or (765) 494-9854.

...all users will be required to reset their password upon initial login.
ITP’s newest identification tool is here!

Hawaiian Scarab ID: Scarab and Stag Beetles of Hawaii and the Pacific

Amanda Redford and team, USDA APHIS PPQ S&T ITP

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service’s Identification Technology Program (ITP) is pleased to announce the release of its latest identification tool, Hawaiian Scarab ID: Scarab and Stag Beetles of Hawaii and the Pacific. In Hawaii, the recent introduction of invasive scarab species such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle (Oryctes rhinoceros), Asian flower beetle (Protetia orientalis), and southwestern masked chafer (Cyclocephala pasadenae) made clear the need for development of a platform that allows for diagnosis by quarantine personnel, inspectors, extension entomologists, and citizen scientists with a user-friendly identification tool designed for non-specialists as well as specialists. This tool allows easy identification of adult and immature life stages of established pest species and potential new invasive scarab species.

http://idtools.org/id/beetles/scarab

Resources in this website include:

- Behavior videos to aid in field identification
- Illustrated morphology guides
- Sortable image gallery
- Searchable fact sheets
- Glossary of terms with illustrations on hover
- Lucid key does not require Java
- Hyperlinked references (new feature!)

... and a mobile app is coming soon!

Hawaiian Scarab ID is one of many identification tools and other identification support products produced by the USDA Identification Technology Program (ITP). Please visit http://idtools.org or email the ITP team in Fort Collins, CO at itp@usda.gov to learn more.
and diseases that threaten U.S. agriculture and the environment and ensure the availability of a healthy supply of clean plant stock in the United States. Funding will be provided to 50 states plus Guam and Puerto Rico to implement projects suggested by universities, States, Federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, non-profits and Tribal organizations.

“Through the Farm Bill we are working with our partners and stakeholders to not only ensure the global competitiveness of our specialty crop producers but to fight back against the destruction caused by invasive pests,” said Vilsack. “The projects and centers funded through this effort are helping to develop and put in place the strategies, methods and treatments that safeguard our crops, plants, and natural resources from invasive threats.”

Since the 2014 Farm Bill was enacted, APHIS has funded more than 1,200 projects that have played a significant role in our efforts to protect American agriculture. Collectively, these projects make it possible for us to quickly detect and rapidly respond to invasive pests.

They also help our country maintain the infrastructure necessary for making sure that disease-free, certified planting materials are available to U.S. specialty crop producers.

This year, funded projects include:

- **Old World bollworm** (*Helicoverpa armigera*): $420,725 to delimit the infestation in Puerto Rico and collect and study samples of the pest; and $470,004 for survey and response planning activities in Florida;

- **Polyphagous shot hole borer/Fusarium dieback in avocado**: $175,000 for survey, early detection, and educational outreach in California;

- **Bark beetle**: $157,793 for a Regional Identification Center for Bark Beetle and other wood boring beetles in Oregon;

- **Giant African snail**: $2,203,080 to support ongoing eradication efforts in Florida;

- **Spotted lanternfly**: $1,666,612 million to support eradication and education efforts in Pennsylvania;

- **Coconut rhinoceros beetle**: $1,649,384 to respond to infestations in Hawaii and Guam;

- **Honey bees**: $1,068,988 to survey honey bee populations and study bee health;

- **Invasive pest control on Tribal lands**: $504,786 for six projects to support Tribal outreach and education initiatives and projects to mitigate and control invasive pests on Tribal lands;

- **Grapes**: $465,145 to enhance surveys for grape commodity pests and diseases in 15 states.

- **National Clean Plant Network**: $5 million to support 22 projects in 17 states that focus on providing high quality propagated plant material for fruit trees, grapes, hops, berries, citrus, roses and sweet potatoes free of targeted plant pathogens and pests.

The Farm Bill provided $62.5 million for these programs in fiscal year 2016, though funding was reduced by sequestration. The FY 2016 Section 10007 of the 2014 Farm Bill spending plan is available on the APHIS Web site at [www.aphis.usda.gov/farmbill](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/farmbill).

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**Sentinel Plant Network: gearing up for another season**

The Sentinel Plant Network will be holding three professional development workshops this year. The first workshop is scheduled for April 19 & 20 at Longue Vue House and Gardens in New Orleans. This workshop will serve member gardens from the southeast and south central US. The second and third workshops will be this summer—likely in the west and northeast or north central regions.

If you would like to participate in a workshop please contact Rachel McCarthy at rachel.mccarthy@cornell.edu.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Meetings

March 8–12, 2016
NPDN Fourth National Meeting
Washington, DC

July 30–August 3, 2016
APS Annual meeting
Tampa, FL

July 31–August 4, 2016
National Plant Board 2016 Annual Meeting
Wilmington, DE

September 25–30, 2016
2016 XXV International Congress of Entomology
Orlando, FL

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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