

## National Updates

### NPDN Town Hall Meeting at the 2007 National APS Annual Meeting



Ray Hammerschmidt (right) succeeds Jim Stack (left) as executive director of the NPDN. (Photo Carrie Harmon)

The NPDN conducted a town hall meeting during the 2007 joint APS/SON meetings in San Diego, California on July 29, 2007. Approximately 70 people were in attendance.

NPDN Executive Director, Ray Hammerschmidt, reviewed the

comments from the NPDN membership regarding the first NPDN National meeting, which was held January 2007 in Orlando, FL. Overall, the comments were very positive, and the NPDN plans to have another national meeting in 2010 with an optional field trip as well as a diagnostic workshop. Ray succeeds Jim Stack in this position and the succession occurred at the NPDN Operations Committee meeting the Friday prior to the APS meeting.

Additionally, Ray Hammerschmidt led the discussion regarding the five-year review recommendations. The NPDN five-year review has been completed

by the review team. They reviewed the NPDN five year document, spoke with members at the NPDN national meeting, and contacted members following the meeting. They made recommendations in seven areas breaking them down into action items, specific recommendations, and future issues for consideration. Their recommendations and executive summary are available at [www.npdn.org](http://www.npdn.org) for review and comment.

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#### **Issue Highlights:**

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- ◆ Diagnostics Subcommittee Update
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- ◆ Diagnostic Tip of the Month: A Solution for an Irritating Lab Task
- ◆ Thrips Identification Workshop to be Held at UC Davis
- ◆ 4th Annual IT/Diagnostician's Meeting Announcement
- ◆ Sirex Woodwasp Detected in Michigan
- ◆ First Occurrence of Orange Rust of Sugarcane, *Puccinia kuehnii* in Western Hemisphere in Palm Beach County, Florida
- ◆ New Cyst Nematode Discovered on Corn in Tennessee

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Denis McGee also gave a short presentation about his visits to the five regional NPDN hub labs as well as the proposed lab accreditation program. He has established a working group composed of members from each region. A new version of the plan is being drafted and he solicited input from the membership. He noted that all labs (university, State Department of Agriculture and APHIS) will be eligible for NPDN accreditation. Elements of ISO 17025 will be

adapted for certification of “general types of methods”. A discussion regarding the certification of labs already provisionally approved for *P. ramorum* and other program pests occurred.

*(Thank you to Cassandra Bates, NCPDN Education and Training Coordinator and Carrie Harmon, SPDN Assistant Director for their assistance with this article).*

## Plant Management Network Introduces Applied Cross-Journal Search; Extension Publications Too

Try your hand at Plant Management Network’s new [PMN Cross-Journal Search Engine](#), an important new tool for those looking for credible information in the applied agricultural and plant sciences.

Said one user, “Now PMN has something that I really, really will use regularly! I tried the search for applied journals and it’s great!” According to Miles Wimer, PMN director, the search brings together an array of applied agricultural journals published by PMN’s partners. “This is a way to provide quality information through a centralized portal for practitioners worldwide, especially for those with a broad range of professional responsibilities,” he said.

The cross-journal search joins another PMN search engine for land-grant university extension

publications. Said Wimer, “The [PMN Extension Publication Search Engine](#) has been a cooperative effort of PMN and its [30 Land-Grant Partners](#) and provides exposure and centralized access to the important agricultural publications that partner universities all produce. By providing ready access for PMN’s growing audience of over 25,000 visitors per month, we all better serve our stakeholders.”

Both search engines have permanent links under the “Resources” tab on the navigation bar below the [Plant Management Network](#) header. Information providers are encouraged to post direct links on their websites to the search engines to better serve their own clients. Individuals may also wish to bookmark the searches for future reference.

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NPDN members attend the NPDN Town Hall meeting during the APS 2007 meeting in San Diego. (Photo Carrie Harmon)

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Plant Management Network, [www.plantmanagementnetwork.org](http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org), is a cooperative not-for-profit resource for the applied plant and agricultural sciences. Designed to provide practitioners fast electronic access to proven solutions, PMN offers four peer-reviewed journals, proceedings, field trials publications, image collections, and an extensive searchable database comprised of thousands of web-based resource pages from the network's partner universities, companies, and not-for-profit scientific societies.

## **Diagnostics Subcommittee Update**

Karen L. Snover-Clift  
Subcommittee Chair  
Cornell University  
Department of Plant Pathology

The NPDN diagnostics subcommittee held a conference call on August 9, 2007. During this meeting a number of issues were addressed. Please refer to the diagnostics subcommittee web page of the [NPDN web site](#) for complete minutes of this meeting (login and password required).

Topics of discussion on this call included:

- Review of recent Operations Committee Meeting.
- Methods of obtaining positive controls for diagnostic testing.
- 4th IT-Diagnosticians Meeting Plans. Participant listing still needed from GPDN, NCPDN AND SPDN.
- GPDN representative needed for the Lab Accreditation working group.

The next meeting will be held on September 13, 2007.

## **Employment Opportunity at the Purdue University Plant and Pest Diagnostic Laboratory**

The Department of Botany and Plant Pathology is seeking an experienced plant disease diagnostician who also will function as the Director of the multi-disciplinary Plant and Pest Diagnostic Laboratory (P&PDL).

The Purdue Plant and Pest Diagnostic Laboratory is administratively housed in the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology and is an integrated, cooperative effort between the Departments of Botany and Plant Pathology, Entomology, Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Agronomy, and Forestry and Natural Resources.

The P&PDL is part of the North Central Region of the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN). The laboratory is well equipped with state-of-the-art digital web-based light microscopy, conventional and real time PCR, and carbohydrate (Biolog™) analysis equipment.

Please view the complete job posting including instruction on how to apply on the [NPDN web site](#) under "[employment opportunities](#)."

# **Diagnostic Update**



## Diagnostic Tip of the Month

### Diagnostic Tip of the Month: A Simple Solution for an Irritating Lab Task

Gary Moorman  
The Pennsylvania State University

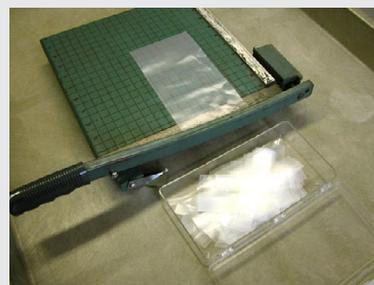


From top to bottom figures 1 - 3. Preparing Parafilm for cutting (Photo Gary Moorman, The Pennsylvania State University)

Do the minor tasks of life get you down? Well, suck it up and get tough! Wars, poverty, injustice and corruption are running amok in the world. However, there are some minor irritations that can be solved...like cutting those hundreds of Parafilm strips you use for sealing Petri plates against creepy crawlies.

Pull a long sheet of Parafilm off the roll (figure 1 and 2). Remove the paper backing (figure 3). Lay the sheet on a paper cutter and start slicing away one strip after another just as fast as your little fingers can move (figure 4). BUT keep those fingers away from the blade. Bloody Parafilm will not stick to a Petri plate. Store the strips in a plastic box or a plastic bag (figure 5).

Now...back to stopping wars, promoting justice and eliminating corruption...



From left to right figures 4 and 5. Cutting Parafilm with paper cutter. (Photo Gary Moorman, The Pennsylvania State University)

## Education and Training

### Thrips Identification Workshop to Be Held at UC Davis

Michael P. Parrella and Cheryle O'Donnell, UC Davis Entomology Department have teamed with Gerald Moritz, Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Halle Germany, on a USDA/CREES plant Biosecurity grant to develop a US Thysanoptera key for the identification of thrips most likely to be introduced into the US. In accordance with this grant the team will conduct training workshops to train diagnosticians on identifying thrips using Lucid keys and molecular methods. The first workshop of this grant is a collaboration with support from the Western Plant Diagnostic Network (WPDN) on the **UC Davis Campus, Oct. 15-17, 2007**.

For more information about this training opportunity please visit on the web: [UC Davis Thysanoptera Workshop](#).

# National Database

## NPDN National Database Updates: 4th Annual IT/Diagnostician's Meeting

Mike Hill  
CERIS Programmer/Analyst  
Purdue University

The 4th annual IT/Diagnostician's meeting will be held at the Adam's Mark hotel in St. Louis, MO on November 28-29, 2007.

Members of the PDIS change management team will meet for a half day on the afternoon of Tuesday November 27th. The IT/Diagnostician's meeting will begin on Wednesday November 28th at 8:00am and conclude on Thursday November 29th at noon. PDIS users will meet for a half day in the afternoon on November 29th.

Reservations can be made at the Adam's Mark hotel by calling 1-800-444-2326 and mentioning "NPDN" as the meeting name. Please contact Mike Hill at 765-494-9854 if you have any questions about the upcoming meeting. We look forward to seeing you in St. Louis.



## North Central Region Sirex Woodwasp Detected in Michigan

On July 10, 2007 the USDA confirmed the detection of a single female Sirex woodwasp (*Sirex noctilio*) in Macomb County, Michigan. The insect was caught in a trap as part of a cooperative State and Federal survey effort.

The sirex woodwasp is a highly significant, regulated pest that has the potential to cause widespread mortality to pine trees. Currently this pest has been detected in Pennsylvania, New York and Michigan in the U.S.

More information on this most recent detection in Michigan can be found on the web at:

[NAPPO Phytosanitary Alert System: Detection of \*Sirex noctilio\* Fabricius \(\*Sirex woodwasp\*\) in Macomb County, Michigan – United States](#)

# Regional Updates



Sirex woodwasp (*Sirex noctilio*). (Photo New Zealand Forest Service)

# Regional Updates



## **Southern Region First Occurrence of Orange Rust of Sugarcane, *Puccinia kuehnii* in Western Hemisphere in Palm Beach County, Florida**



Orange rust of sugarcane (*Puccinia kuehnii*) (Photo Robert C. Magarey, CABI CPC)

Orange rust of sugarcane, *Puccinia kuehnii*, was confirmed by the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services in Palm Beach County, Florida on July 17, 2007. Previously, orange rust had not been reported in the Western Hemisphere.

Since the initial detection, the rust was found in three other Florida counties including Hendry, Glades and Martin. Based on survey results that indicate that the rust is widespread

throughout the sugarcane growing areas of Florida, it was determined by a panel of subject matter experts from APHIS, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Department of Plant Industry and the sugarcane industry that regulatory action would be ineffective and therefore, no regulatory actions will be taken. Efforts will begin for development of control strategies including the use of resistant varieties.

More information on this detection can be found on the web at:

[NAPPO Phytosanitary Alert System: Detections of Orange Rust of Sugarcane.](#)

[\*Puccinia kuehnii\*, in Palm Beach County, Florida – United States](#)

[NAPPO Phytosanitary Alert System: Regulatory Action No Longer Required for Orange Rust of Sugarcane, \*Puccinia kuehnii\*, in Florida -United States](#)

## **New Cyst Nematode Discovered on Corn in Tennessee**

Nematologists have discovered a new cyst nematode in soil samples taken from a field in northwestern Tennessee in 2006. The report was confirmed in July 2007. The samples taken from soil around stunted corn plants revealed juveniles and lemon-shaped cysts. The nematode has physical characteristics that differentiate it from *Heterodera* species, including the corn cyst nematode, *Heterodera zaeae*. Genetic analyses confirmed the cysts differed from *Heterodera zaeae*, but resulted in a match with cyst specimens collected in Tennessee in 1978 from goosegrass (*Eleusine indica*). So far, the nematode is reported to reproduce well on a variety of hybrid corn cultivars but reproduced poorly on other monocots that were tested. No dicot hosts have been reported.

More information on this detection can be found on the web at:

[NAPPO Phytosanitary Alert System: New Cyst Nematode Discovered on Corn in Tennessee](#)

[Tylka, G. 2007. New cyst nematode species on corn. Integrated Crop Management. Iowa State University Extension.](#)

## *National Events*

November 28-29, 2007, [4th Annual IT/Diagnostician's Meeting](#), St. Louis, MO

December 9-12, 2007, [ESA Annual Meeting](#), San Diego, CA

December 12-14, 2007, [2007 National Soybean Rust Symposium](#), Louisville, KY

March 24-26, 2009, [Sixth International IPM Symposium](#), Portland, OR

## *Northeast Region*

October 10-12, 2007, [Northeast Division APS Meeting](#), Cape May, NJ

## *Western Region*

October 15-17, 2007, [Thrips Identification Workshop](#), Davis, CA

# Upcoming Events



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