

## National Updates

### 5th Annual IT/Diagnostician's Meeting

The 5th annual IT/Diagnostician's meeting will be held at the Windmill Suites in Chandler, Arizona on November 18-19,

must be made by October 20, 2008. Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-547-4747 and mentioning "11-17NPD" to receive a discounted rate of \$129 per night.

Windmill Suites of Chandler  
3535 W. Chandler Blvd.  
Chandler, AZ 85226  
1-800-547-4747

[www.windmillinns.com](http://www.windmillinns.com)



2008. This year's meeting will be two full days. Traditionally, each regional director has invited one regional support staff member, two diagnosticians from their member states and one IT support specialist to represent each region at this meeting. Additionally epidemiologists from within the network attend the meeting. If you are interested in being a representative from your region or have issues or concerns you would like addressed at this meeting please contact your regional director or representative. We look forward to another positive and productive meeting in Chandler. For those asked to attend, reservations

#### ***Issue Highlights:***

- ◆ 5th Annual IT/Diagnostician Meeting
- ◆ Diagnostics Subcommittee Update
- ◆ National Database Subcommittee Update
- ◆ Diagnostic Tip of the Month: Improving Isolation Results
- ◆ IT Tip of the Month: Laptops and Business Travel
- ◆ How to Conduct First Detector Training course
- ◆ Regional Updates: The Spread of the Asian Longhorned Beetle; Oak Wilt- A New Threat to Forest and Landscape in New York State
- ◆ Press Release: Reports Published by PMN



# Diagnostic Updates

## Diagnostics Subcommittee Update

Karen L. Snover-Clift  
Committee Chair  
Cornell University

Department of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology

The Diagnostics Subcommittee held a conference call on August 21, 2008. During this meeting a number of issues were addressed. Please refer to the website, [www.npdn.org](http://www.npdn.org) for complete minutes of this meeting (login and password required).

- Review Fall Beltsville-NPDN Diagnostician Training Plans
- Lab Accreditation Progress
- Creation of a Survey to ask Diagnosticians of their training needs
- Updated Select Agent listing
- Entomology Survey Results
- National Meeting Update
- IT-Diagnosticians Meeting

The next conference call will be held on Thursday, October 9, 2008.

## National Database Subcommittee Update

Karen L. Snover-Clift  
Committee Chair  
Cornell University  
Department of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology

The National Database Subcommittee met on August 20, 2008 to continue our work on reviewing the massive EPA Pest and Host lists and revising guidelines for uploading documents that will clarify how sample diagnoses should be transmitted to the National Repository at Purdue University. During this meeting a number of issues were addressed. Please refer to the website, [www.npdn.org](http://www.npdn.org) for complete minutes of this meeting (login and password required.)

- Discussed change submission requests.
- Reviewed fungal disease common names beginning with the letter L.

The next meeting will be held on October 7, 2008.



Soybean rust training at the University of Florida.



Graduate students scouting (photo Gary Bergstrom)

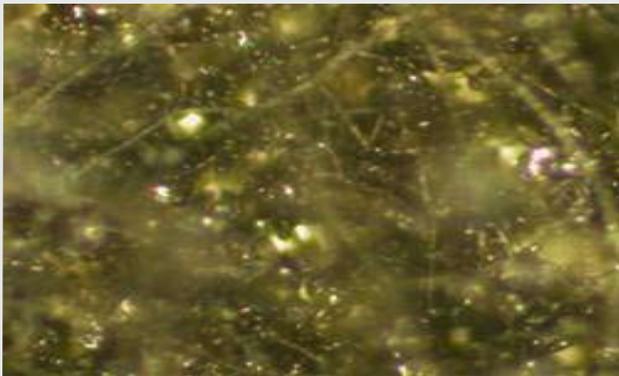
## Improving Isolation Results: Undernourishing fungi using unamended agar or medium with scant nutrients

Julia W. Thompson

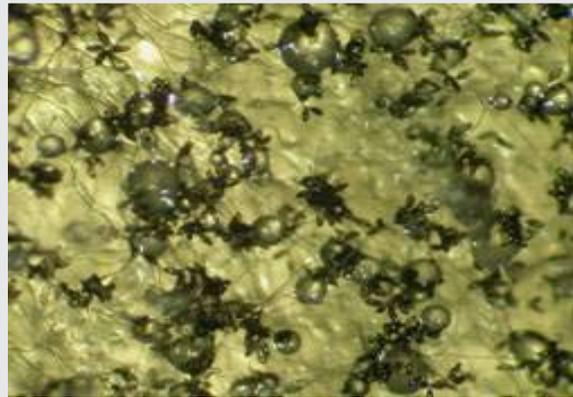
Missouri Dept. of Agriculture

## Diagnostic Tip of the Month

In the press of apparently unlimited samples and all too limited time it may be a little too long before an isolation attempt is reexamined. Important details may be difficult to determine amidst flourishing mycelium. If you have also plated onto a medium with more limited nutrients these details can sometimes be seen with much less trouble.



A culture growing on Difco™ potato dextrose agar (PDA) (39 g / liter water) viewed with a dissecting scope. Spores are present but much definition is lost because of their abundance and because of the abundant mycelium on the surface of the culture. Spores may be knocked loose when making slides making it difficult to determine how they are borne on the conidiophores.



The same isolate at the same age and magnification on quarter strength PDA ((9.75g Difco™ potato dextrose agar + 11.25 g agar) / liter water). More of the characteristics are readily apparent.



The same isolate at the same age and magnification on unamended agar (15g agar/ liter water). Conidiophores and spores are easily seen. To see still more detail you can put a cover slip on a drop of water or stain that has been placed directly onto the surface of the agar and use a compound scope to view the culture.

# IT Tip of the Month

## Laptops and Business Travel

According to a recent study commissioned by Dell and performed by the Ponemon Institute, there is a growing problem with business travelers at U.S. Airports. Shockingly, 12,000 Laptops are reported as lost each week and 67% of those laptops are not recovered. The laptops are most commonly lost at security checkpoints and departure gates. The survey also included feedback from 864 business travelers: 53% said their laptops held confidential data; 42% said their data was not backed up; 16% said they would do nothing if they lost a laptop while traveling on business; 77% said the chance of recovering a lost laptop was less than ten percent.

### What you can do to prevent loss and mitigating risks from a lost laptop.

To assist in recovery of your laptop in the case it is misplaced or stolen:

1. Before you travel, securely affix your business card with your current cell phone number to the bottom of the laptop. Ensure you don't impede the computers ventilation system. In the case an honest person found your misplaced laptop it will provide a quick means of reuniting you with your laptop.
2. Attach a STOP plate to the laptop. See the website: <http://stoptheft.com/site/index.php> These \$26 plates are virtually impossible to remove and provide a means of tracking the laptop back to its owner. Check with your I.T. person .... some universities stores carry this tag for discounted prices.



To mitigate the loss of your laptop you should consider:

1. Set a boot up and configuration password to prevent it booting up. With some difficulty, an individual could disassemble the laptop and bypass these settings.
2. Set up a disk password to prevent access to the hard drive without the password.
3. Encrypt all sensitive and proprietary data.
4. Back up your data on a regular basis, before you travel to ensure that you will not have to spend thousands of manhours recreating your reports, presentations and important data.

To prevent loss there are measures you can take:

1. Don't take your laptop on trips where the possibility of theft is high and make plans with your travel sponsors to provide you a computer to work with.
2. Keep the minimal amount of data on your computer to limit the exposure of sensitive or proprietary data.
3. Store data on organizational servers and access them via VPN if your organization permits that.
4. When traveling through security check points do a mental inventory of your property before entering the checkpoint and after to ensure you don't leave anything behind.

# Education and Training

## How to Conduct First Detector Training

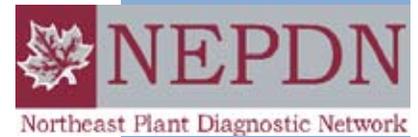
October 14, 2008 and October 16, 2008  
12pm-2:30pm EDT; 11am-1:30pm CDT; 10am-12:30 MDT; 9am-11:30am PDT

Remote Distance Education Course

Requirements at your location: Computer, High-Speed Internet Access; Computer Audio; Phone.

[On-line registration available](#)

## Regional Updates



### *Northeast Region*

#### **The Spread of the Asian Longhorned Beetle**

On August 14, 2008, confirmation of a Asian Longhorned Beetle presence in the Worcester County, Massachusetts was made. Officials announced that

they found an infestation of the Asian Longhorned Beetle in the Kendrick Field area which is very close to Indian Lake, a summer recreational area.

“The Secretary of Agriculture has declared it an emergency because its an invasive pest and it will kill many, many species of hardwood trees that are native to our country”, said Christine Markham with the United States Department of Agriculture.



Asian longhorned beetle. (Photo Kent Loeffler)

# Regional Updates

*Northeast Region*

## **Oak Wilt – A New Threat to Forest and Landscape Trees in New York State**

George W. Hudler

Cornell University

Department of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology

Thanks to keen observations by several homeowners in Schenectady County, New York and prompt action by Cornell Cooperative Extension educator Chris Logue, plant pathologists at Cornell recently confirmed for the first time that oak wilt (*Ceratocystis fagacearum*) – a lethal disease of red oaks in the upper Midwest and mid-Atlantic states and Texas – is now present in New York State. So far, oak wilt is only known to occur in the state in an area equal to about three city blocks in the town of Scotia. However, as word of the discovery spreads and more people learn to identify symptoms of the disease, Cornell Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory staff expect to process more samples from various localities elsewhere and, from them, to get a better picture of just how widespread the disease is.

To get more information about Oak Wilt, go to: <http://plantclinic.cornell.edu/Oak%20Wilt%20Announcement.html>

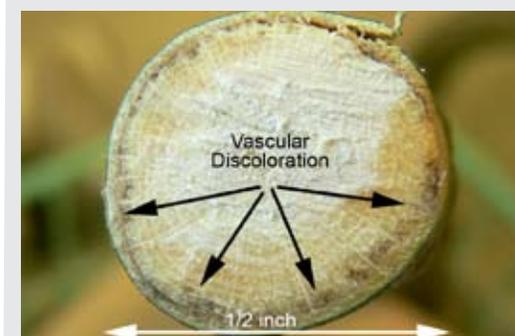
To see the proper sample collection technique, go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XVUZsvyZfVE>



Foliar symptoms of oak wilt



Pressure pads on a gray mycelial mat



Vascular discoloration on oak branch infected with oak wilt

## Reports Published by the Plant Management Network

## Press Release

St. Paul, Minn. (August 13, 2008) — The 2008 volume of Plant Disease Management Reports (PDMR), an online resource developed to give growers, consultants, pesticide applicators, and extension specialists the latest in disease management information, is now published.

This latest volume contains more than 560 searchable reports on the effectiveness of fungicides/nematicides, resistant varieties, and other biological controls that defend against diseases of agricultural and horticultural crops.

All volumes of PDMR and its preceding publications, F&N Tests and B&C Tests, contain 5,000-plus reports, covering more than 1,500 chemical and biological controls.

“Many professionals in agriculture and horticulture depend on PDMR to develop disease management recommendations or make better pest management decisions,” said Dan Egel, Ph.D., Extension Plant Pathologist at Purdue University and Editor-in-Chief of Plant Disease Management Reports.

Each one- to two-page report consists of a summary outlining trial conditions and results. Test plot trial data, also in the report, includes treatment rates, application timings, and pertinent efficacy data for each product tested.

Users can search the reports by keyword or section.

Keyword searches can include product names, active ingredients, host crops, and authors. Sections include cereals and forage crops; citrus, tropical, and vegetable crops; field crops; ornamentals and trees; pome fruits; seed treatments (for all crops); small fruits; stone fruits and nuts; and turfgrass.

PDMR’s efficacy reports were first published in 1946 as a section in the USDA publication, Plant Disease Reporter. In 1960, the American Phytopathological Society (APS) published these reports independently under the title Fungicide and Nematicide (F&N) Tests. In 1986, APS developed a new publication, Biological and Cultural Tests for the Control of Plant Disease, or B&C Tests. By 2001, both resources became electronically accessible. In 2007, they were merged into Plant Disease Management Reports. A full history is discussed in this volume of PDMR.



*continued from page 7*



Users can have continuous access to all volumes of Plant Disease Management Reports, F&N Tests, and B&C Tests online for \$45 yearly. This subscription also includes access to other Plant Management Network resources, which include Arthropod Management Tests, a similar publication covering the effectiveness of insecticides; applied crop science journals, webcasts, targeted extension searches, image collections, proceedings, and more. To subscribe or learn more, visit [www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/pdmr](http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/pdmr).

PDMR is distributed online through the Plant Management Network ([www.plantmanagementnetwork.org](http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org)), a nonprofit publisher of applied plant science resources. The Plant Management Network is jointly managed by the American Phytopathological Society, the Crop Science Society of America, and the American Society of Agronomy. The Plant Management Network's nonprofit publishing mission is to enhance the health, management, and production of agricultural and horticultural crops.

## Upcoming Events

### *National Events*

November 16-19, 2008, [ESA Annual Meeting](#), Reno, NV  
November 18-19, 2008, [5th Annual IT/Diagnostician Meeting](#), Phoenix, AZ  
March 24-26, 2009, [Sixth International IPM Symposium](#), Portland, OR  
December 6-10, 2009, NPDN National Meeting, Miami, FL

### *Education and Training Events*

October 14 and 16, 2008, Remote Distance Education Course.

### *Regional Events*

October 21-23, 2008, SPDN Annual Meeting, Auburn, AL  
November 13-14, 2008, WPDN Annual Meeting, Reno, NV  
January 21-22, 2009, GPDN Annual Meeting, Fargo, ND  
March 18-19, 2009, NEPDN Annual Meeting, New Brunswick, NJ

Editing by  
NEPDN  
Cornell University

