

National Updates

Updated NPDN Chain of Communication and Custody SOP Now Available

The Exercise Committee, in cooperation with NPDN and USDA colleagues, updated the NPDN Communications SOP to reflect new operations with USDA-APHIS, and to clarify chain of custody and communication steps.

The SOP is used when a suspected regulatory sample is identified within the NPDN. This SOP is exercised during NPDN and APHIS detection scenarios to ensure all parties know the correct

order for communications and get to know their counterparts. This ensures effective, confidential, and efficient communications during a real event.

The [most recent version of the SOP, updated 10-13-08](#), can be found on the Exercise Resources page of the [NPDN web site](#).

The National Plant Diagnostic Network Standard Operating Procedure for APHIS-PPQ Pest of Concern Scenario - General SOP... rev October 13, 2008

Note: It is recommended that confidential information be communicated only by direct personal or phone conversation. E-mail and phone messages should be kept simple without mentioning the pest of concern or any confidential information. For example: "This message is regarding a **biosecurity** event. Please call me immediately."

Step 1a - Grower, Pest Advisor or other Sample Submitting Entity brings sample and submits diagnosis request to state department of ag, APHIS-PPQ, or university staff. It is preferred that where possible, the sample submitter should phone the diagnostician to notify that a suspect sample is **urgent**, with time of arrival and method of delivery.

Step 1b - State department of ag, APHIS-PPQ, or university staff delivers sample to National Plant Diagnostic Network Triage Lab (there is at least one in every state and it may be a State Department of Ag job or a land grant university lab.)

Step 1c - Triage Lab staff acknowledges receipt and enters the sample into the system assigning a unique lab ID number to the sample.

Step 2a - Triage Lab staff examines sample.

Step 2b - If the sample is determined to be of threshold, then be stored in a secure location not given whom had access to the sample and who

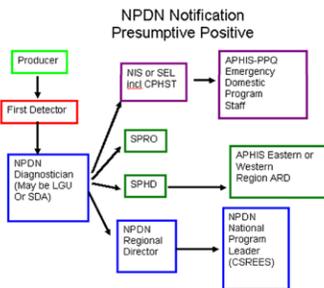
Step 2d - Triage Lab staff contacts state of or SPRO, State Department of Agriculture Lab (Director, the Hub Lab and APHIS-PPQ Confid inform them that Triage Lab has received a pre requesting confirming diagnosis.

The APHIS-PPQ Confirming Diagnosis Desk, National Identification Service Molecular Diag, or USDA-ARS Systematic Entomology Labor Taxonomic Services Unit (CSTSD) (contact name: Expert Lab diagnostician as designated by the

For plant disease sample CDD, please contact USDA-APHIS-PPQ/PPQ/PPQ Molecular Diag (mary.salin@aphis.usda.gov) or telephone (3 Also notify the NIS Urgent Team by email (3 with a PDF of the FPC form 391 or fax a copy Team" (fax number: 301-734-5276).

Flow Chart of Communication

Not to be used as a stand alone chart. This chart is to be used in conjunction with the The National Plant Diagnostic Network Standard Operating Procedure for: APHIS-PPQ Pest of Concern Scenario - General SOP... rev June 3, 2007. Failure to do so is likely to result in a less than complete communication and chain of custody protocol.



Issue Highlights:

- ◆ Updated NPDN Chain of Communication and Custody SOP Now Available
- ◆ Diagnostics Subcommittee Update
- ◆ New SPDN Portal Goes Live
- ◆ Diagnostic Tip of the Month: Two Basic Techniques for Enhancing Detection of Sporulating Fungi
- ◆ Education and Training: Pests and Plant Diseases Beware – NMSU Teaches ‘First Detectors’ to Spot Outbreaks
- ◆ National Database Subcommittee Update
- ◆ National Database Online Training Available
- ◆ Regional Updates: NEPDN: Expansion of the Quarantine Area in Worcester County, Massachusetts for Asian Longhorned Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*), 2009 NEPDN Regional Meeting Planned – Time to Register!, SPDN: Florida’s Most Extensive Honey Bee Educational Event Doubles in Size



New SPDN Portal Goes Live

The Southern Plant Diagnostic Network (SPDN) has been supporting two regional websites since 2007. As of February 1, 2009, the old SPDN website (<http://spdn.ifas.ufl.edu>) will no longer be supported. The new SPDN portal (www.sepdn.org) will be the online home of the SPDN.

The portal system is a new concept in NPDN web sites, allowing for distributed authorship of committee pages, secure members-only areas, and updated information for diagnosticians, first detectors, and the public.

The NPDN newsletters (both the member newsletter and the First Detector newsletter) are archived on the SPDN portal, as well as diagnostic recipes and protocols, new disease and pest detections, diagnostic news, and SPDN committee members and activities.

Please visit us at our new home, and update your bookmarks to www.sepdn.org.

Topics of discussion included:

- Notification of participants for HLB and *Phytophthora kernoviae* workshops, Beltsville-NPDN Diagnostician Training.
- Diagnostician Survey- follow-up:
 - basic technique workshop
 - contacted APS
- Status of current SOP's and new select agent SOP's.
- Diagnostic recipe/protocol library.
- Scheduling of Lepidoptera Workshops.

The next conference call will be held on **Friday, February 13, 2009.**

*****Important Update***
on Beltsville-NPDN
Trainings**

**Beltsville-NPDN Potato Wart
Workshop Training dates moved
to Fall 2009.**

Diagnostic Updates

Diagnostics Subcommittee Update

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

The NPDN diagnostics subcommittee held a conference call on January 15, 2009. During this meeting a number of issues were addressed. Please refer to the diagnostics subcommittee page of the [NPDN web site](#) for complete minutes (login and password required).

Diagnostic Tip of the Month: Two Basic Techniques for Enhancing Detection of Sporulating Fungi

Gail Ruhl
Purdue Plant and Pest Diagnostic Lab

I have found the following two simple techniques immensely useful for improving the success of inducing sporulation from plant material.

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These diagnostic procedures may be routine for many of you, however, if not, try them out and enjoy your new found success in detecting sporulation that previously alluded you when you ‘just knew’ it should be present.

Prior to incubation, thoroughly wash all types of plant material (especially foliage) to remove any chemical residues that might potentially inhibit sporulation.

When incubating foliage with leaf spots or blights, place part of the sample top-side up and the other part top side down (Figure 1).

This simple procedure often helps to increase ones’ chances of finding sporulation that may occur only on the top or bottom of the infected leaf.

Pests and Plant Diseases

Beware – NMSU Teaches ‘First Detectors’ to Spot Outbreaks

Plant pests and diseases are responsible for substantial economic losses every year in New Mexico and across the Southwest. Now, thanks to a series of first detector training courses hosted by the New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service, there

is a small army of people around the region who are trained to spot outbreaks earlier – often before they get out of hand.

Over the last year, nearly 170 people attended training courses in Bernalillo, Sandoval and Dona Ana Counties. Those in attendance represented ten different

counties in New Mexico as well as several counties in Texas and Arizona.

During the courses, NMSU extension plant pathologist Natalie Goldberg showed how to identify plant pests and diseases.

Additionally, those in attendance learned how to properly submit both suspicious and invasive samples to NMSU’s Plant Diagnostic Clinic, which provides analysis of plant material for pathogens and environmental

stresses. The clinic also suggests appropriate control measures when available.

Those who complete the course are now part of a national network of first detectors, receiving timely pest alerts and educational materials.

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Education and Training



Figure 1. Top photo: Miscanthus foliage in moist chamber. Bottom photo: Sporulation of Colletotrichum on Miscanthus foliage. (Photos Gail Ruhl, Purdue University)

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Figure 1. First detector kit received by participants of NM first detector training.

Each participant also received a first detector kit with vials of ethanol, a pocketknife, a hand lens, plastic bags and other tools (Figure 1).

Individuals taking part in the course included master gardeners, agronomists, extension agents, landscape professionals, pesticide applicators, urban gardeners, retirees, commercial businesses such as chile growers and wineries, field

and farm managers, chemical company representatives, government agencies and college students.

The newly trained 'first detectors' shared their comments and wisdom at each training. A master gardener stated that she "found the class to be informative and quite helpful!! I plan on using it on a daily basis." A retiree that gardens in his own backyard commented on how he was able to absorb the information because, "our speaker has a great sense of humor which was used effectively to impart good knowledge." "An extremely important and useful course. I would like to attend more of these trainings on diseases, bug pests and weeds," stated a licensed pesticide applicator.

The cost of the training is funded by New

Mexico State University, the Western Plant Diagnostic Network, AgroGuard and the Southwest Border Food Safety and Defense Center, a program supported by the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and the Office of Emergency Management.

National Database

National Database Subcommittee Update

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

The NPDN national database subcommittee met on January 13, 2009 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 national database subcommittee web page of the [NPDN web site](#) for complete minutes of this meeting (login and password required).

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Topics of discussion included:

- Change submission requests.
- The addition of "Race" in subspecies field.
- Review of fungal disease common names beginning with the letter S and T.

The next meeting will be held on **February 18, 2009**.

NPDN National Database - Online Training Available

Mike Hill

Programmer Analyst

CERIS - Purdue University

Online training, through Adobe Connect, is now available on the NPDN National Repository. To request training visit http://npdn.ceris.purdue.edu/htbin/npdn_training.com and complete the form provided.

You will need to specify your preferred dates for training along with your contact information. The form can also be used to request training for large groups such as a whole region. Once the form has been submitted you will be contacted with the online training details.

Please note that the above link requires a

User ID and password to the NPDN National Repository. If you need a user account please contact Mike Hill at (765)494-9854 or by e-mail at npdn@ceris.purdue.edu.

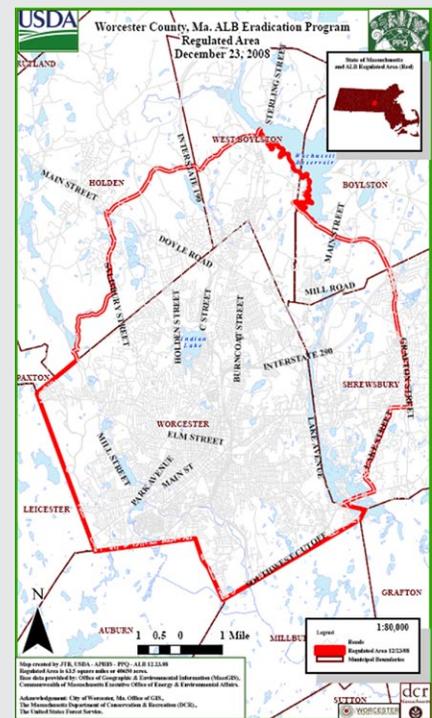


Northeast Region Expansion of the Quarantine Area in Worcester County, Massachusetts for Asian Longhorned Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*)

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is expanding the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) quarantine area to include additional portions of Worcester County, Massachusetts.

On August 5, 2008, APHIS confirmed the first state identification of ALB in Worcester County, Massachusetts.

Regional Updates



Map of Worcester County, MA, Asian Longhorned Beetle Eradication Program, December 23, 2008.

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Regional Updates

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On September 4, 2008, a Federal Order was issued, which established a quarantine area of

33 square miles of Worcester County, Massachusetts, for ALB. On November 10, 2008, a second Federal Order was issued, adding an additional 29 square miles to the quarantine area.

Over 5,000 infested trees have been detected and APHIS is working cooperatively with the state and affected municipalities to eradicate the pest through the removal and treatment of infested trees.

For more information on this pest and its current detection, please visit on the web:

[NAPPO Phytosanitary Alert System: Expansion of the Quarantine Area in Worcester County, Massachusetts for Asian Longhorned Beetle \(*Anoplophora glabripennis*\) - United States](#)

2009 NEPDN Regional Meeting Planned - Time to Register!

The NEPDN will be holding their 2009 regional meeting in New Brunswick, New Jersey on **March 17-19, 2009**.

The meeting is being designed for an audience of diagnosticians, including those covering other disciplines such as entomology and weeds and those at department of agriculture laboratories.

If you plan on attending, please contact Karen Scott (kas8@cornell.edu) for more information about travel and hotel accommodations.



Southern Region Florida's Most Extensive Honey Bee Educational Event Doubles in Size

GAINESVILLE – On March 20-21, 2009, members of the University of Florida Honey Bee Research & Extension Lab will host the 2nd Annual Bee College at the Whitney Labs in St. Augustine, FL (9505 Ocean Shore Blvd). The event, which is being coupled with the Florida Master Beekeeper Program, and the state-wide Bee College Honey Show, promises to be Florida's largest and most extensive honey bee educational event.

For more information, detailed agenda, speaker bios, and a printable registration form, visit <http://www.UFhoneybee.com>.

National Events

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

December 6-10, 2009, NPDN National Meeting, Miami, FL

Diagnostician Training Events

Citrus Greening, USDA-APHIS-PPQ-CPHST-NGBTL, Beltsville, MD
February 3, 2009

Phytophthora kernoviae, USDA-APHIS-PPQ-CPHST-NGBTL, Beltsville, MD
February 10-12, 2009
February 17-19, 2009
March 3-5, 2009
March 10-12, 2009

Adult Lepidoptera Identification Workshops

March 17-19 2009, University of California- Davis, CA
March 24-26, 2009, University of California- Davis, CA

Regional Events

March 17-19, 2009, NEPDN Annual Meeting, New Brunswick, NJ

Upcoming Events



[Mary McKellar](#), Editor
NEPDN
Cornell University

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