

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

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## Corn

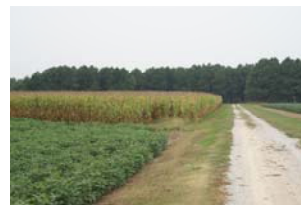
By Russ Patrick



Corn harvest has begun in certain areas where producers are cutting it for silage. However, it may be a couple of weeks before grain harvest and storage begins. If you have corn and you plan to store it, please clean the bin of any residual corn remaining from the previous year. Remove any remaining grain, inside and outside of the bin. Treat the storage area with Tempo. I just had a call from one of our largest white corn producers asking about Tempo. He had been using malathion. I do not recommend malathion use for empty bins and especially not on grain, because it is not labeled. If you have to put something on the corn when you are binning, use a product called Crop Spray. It is a pyrethrum compound labeled for corn as well as wheat. You can call Jim Sharpe or Jim Osment with De-

Gesch America phone: (816)392-7582 and tell him I recommended him to you.

You can see from this photo that corn is drying down fairly rapidly. Just remember to get your bins ready for the new crop. Moisture of corn in several locations ranged from 26 to 30%. Do not put high moisture corn in your grain bins. Unless you plan to dry it down much lower. Fifteen percent would not be a bad moisture level to bin.



## Soybeans

By Russ Patrick



Be on the lookout for Dectes stem borer. If you find fields with plants falling over in row middles, it may have a stemborer infestation. At this point nothing can be done, but remember they can overwinter. Please let us know if you see anything like this in your crop.

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## Turf Grass

By Russ Patrick

Sugarcane beetles have been found in turf grass. Frank Hale asked me to identify the beetle they had found and it was identified as a sugarcane beetle. If you can get the material to them, you can kill them. Sevin XLR can be used, but you must reach the insect to control the infestation. We had poor results when using insecticides when they invaded corn several years ago.



## Crop Disease Management Reports

By Darrell Hensley

The latest version of the Plant Disease Management Reports (PDMR), has just been released. It is a 2008 release of 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, nematocides, 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 [fungicide and nematocide] Tests and B&C [biological and cultural] Tests, contain 5000-plus reports, covering more than 1500 chemical and biological controls. A full history of PDMR is discussed in this newly released volume.

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.

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. To subscribe or learn more about the Plant Management Network, visit <http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/pdmr>.

## Pageant, a New Ornamental Fungicide

By Darrell Hensley

Pageant™ is a newly developed fungicide by BASF which combines the active ingredient boscalid, recently registered for ornamentals, with pyraclostrobin, the active ingredient in Insignia® fungicide. It is placed in the fungicide group of 7 and 11 since it is a mixture of two active ingredients. Pageant helps growers control more diseases with one application than any other registered fungicide on the market. It is labeled for disease control on ornamentals and flower bulbs grown in outdoor nurseries, retail nurseries, lathhouses and shadehouses, containers and on forest and conifer nurseries and plantations. The label contains the signal word Caution and it has a 12 hour re-entry interval (REI) for most crops.

## Cicada Killer Wasps

By Frank A. Hale



The Olympics are not the only thing catching our attention during the dog-days of summer. Cicada killer wasps are big and scary looking and tend to zip at eye level. They can unnerve even a trained entomologist. Fortunately, these parasitoid wasps are only looking for dog-day cicadas to paralyze and carry to their underground burrows. They then deposit an egg on their dog-day cicada prey.

Cicada killer wasps are also considered solitary ground nesting wasps and despite all the bravado, they hardly ever sting. This is unlike hornets, yellow-jackets, paper wasps, honey bees, and bumble bees that have many individuals in a hive or nest (social insects) and can sting in mass.

The cicada killer males will act aggressively, even bump into you at times, but like all bees, wasps and hornets the males can not sting since they lack a stinger. If people can realize that they are harmless, they may be able to enjoy their daring flights.

Since they like to burrow in sand and other easy to dig areas, one control option according to Dr. David Shetlar at The Ohio State University is to rake back the sand or mulch in volleyball courts, golf course bunkers, play grounds, or mulched flower beds and put down a woven landscape fabric about 3-4 inches deep. Since the cicada killer wasps dig 10-18 inches deep, this will deter them from nesting. Insecticide dusts such as carbaryl (Sevin) or deltamethrin (Deltadust, Bonide Delta Eight) can be lightly applied to the burrow opening. The insecticide dust gets on the cicada killer wasps as they enter and exit the hole. They ingest the insecticide as they groom and will soon die.

## Worker Protection Standards (WPS): Training by the Producer, Reports & Training Materials

By Gene Burgess

I would like to review the state rules related to producers training WPS Workers and Handlers. Also, I would like to review the reporting forms to be used and announce a new CD that is available.

- In order for anyone to take the C15 exam to become a WPS Trainer, they must be certified as a Private Applicator or a Commercial Applicator (other than C15). Even if they have been certified as a Private Applicator or Commercial Applicator, but do not have the C15, they cannot train Workers or Handlers. The state may have been a little lax in enforcing this rule in the past, but will be pushing for more compliance in the future.
- Trainers must use EPA approved training materials.
- Workers and Handlers must give their complete SSN or a passport number.
- Workers and Handlers may receive a verification card that expires every five years, from the date of their last training as a Worker or Handler. The issuance of a verification card is optional.
- Extension Agents uses EPP Info #342A, *Extension -- WPS Training Information*, to report WPS training to the PSEP office and EPP Info #342B, *Extension -- Roster for WPS Trainer, Worker and Handler Training*, to report to TDA.

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- A form is available for producers to use in reporting Worker/Handler training. That form is EPP Info #346, *Employer's Handler & Worker Roster*. We would like to receive a copy of this form in the PSEP office, as well as being sent to TDA. That way, the training can be included in our annual reports.
- These two previously mentioned forms have been revised and may be download from the PSEP website, <http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/psep/psep.htm>
- The EPA's *How to Comply* manual is recommended for a producer, who must comply with the standards and anyone taking the C15 exam.
- All WPS training material is now available on a free CD, which is available from EPA at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/worker.htm>. I would recommend that all agents get a copy of this CD.

## Wheat Storage on the Farm

By Russ Patrick

Wheat producers should be aerating their grain bins filled with wheat. Even at night when the temperatures may be in 60 and 70s aeration will help reduce insect buildup in the wheat. Don't forget to turn on aerators at night when temps are coolest. Even if you have used a grain protectant such as Storcide II, you still need to aerate the bins. What few insects may be in the bin will not reproduce at temperatures in the low 60s and you will have better grain quality at low moisture levels and low temperatures.



## Subterranean Termite Swarmer Without Wings Found Throughout Houses

By Karen M. Vail



Fig. 1. De-alate *Reticulitermes virginicus*.  
Image credit: UT E&PP

A seasoned pest management professional and a county Extension agent were perplexed by dark southern subterranean termite, *Reticulitermes virginicus*, reproductives found in structures. I guess the fact that (1) the swarmer's wings were not found anywhere in the structure and that (2) the insects were somewhat dry, so appeared smaller than usual, convinced them it was not subterranean termites.

Termites will drop their wings after a flight, but the wings may be dropped where they aren't visible to us. We have received samples of subterranean termite swarmer without wings, de-alates, at least three times this year and most of these were *R. virginicus*.

Three native subterranean termites are found in Tennessee. *Reticulitermes flavipes*, the eastern subterranean termite, is the most commonly encountered and has major flights from March through the end of May. *R. virginicus* usually swarms in June, but may fly through mid-July. *R. hageni*, the light southern subterranean termite, swarms July through mid-September.



Fig. 2. In *R. virginicus*, the space between the simple eye and the compound eye is less than the width of the simple eye. Image credit: UT E&PP

Dried termite reproductives without wings will be smaller than a live specimen. *R. flavipes*' length from head to wing tip is 8.5 – 10.5 mm. Thus, on a live specimen, the length from head to abdominal tip, would be about half that length (4.25 – 5.25 mm) and even less in a dried, dead specimen. *R. virginicus*' and *R. hageni*'s length from head to wing tip in a live specimen is 7.0 – 9.5 mm and 7.0 – 8.0 mm, respectively.

Without magnification, these de-alate termite swarmers resemble small brown beetles, but once they are observed under a microscope, the wing bases are obvious. If you are in doubt, submit the insect for identification through the UT Extension Soil, Plant and Pest Center or through Distance Diagnostics.

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## OTHER UT NEWSLETTERS WITH PEST MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

### Fruit Pest News

<http://web.utk.edu/~extepp/fpn/fpn.htm>

### Tennessee Crop and Pest Management Newsletter

[http://www.utextension.utk.edu/fieldCrops/cotton/cotton\\_insects/ipmnewsletters.htm](http://www.utextension.utk.edu/fieldCrops/cotton/cotton_insects/ipmnewsletters.htm)

### Ornamental Pest and Disease Update

<http://soilplantandpest.utk.edu/publications/ornamentalnwsltr.html>

Tennessee Soybean Rust Hotline - 877-875-2326

### USDA Soybean Rust Web Site

<http://www.sbrusa.net>

This and other "What's Happening" issues can be found at

<http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/Whats/whatshap.htm>

### Entomology and Plant Pathology Web Site

<http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu>

### Precautionary Statement

To protect people and the environment, pesticides should be used safely. This is everyone's responsibility, especially the user. Read and follow label directions carefully before you buy, mix, apply, store or dispose of a pesticide. According to laws regulating pesticides, they must be used only as directed by the label.

### Disclaimer

This publication contains pesticide recommendations that are subject to change at any time. The recommendations in this publication are provided only as a guide. It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. The label always takes precedence over the recommendations found in this publication.

Use of trade or brand names in this publication is for clarity and information; it does not imply approval of the product to the exclusion of others that may be of similar, suitable composition, nor does it guarantee or warrant the standard of the product. The author(s), the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture and University of Tennessee Extension assume no liability resulting from the use of these recommendations.

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