

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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Corn: No Reports of Serious Damage by Insects in Corn

By Russ Patrick

Corn seems to be growing at a very good rate. I would still check fields just in case cutworms happen by and wipe out the stand. The corn is not too tall to be impervious to cutworms. The traps are not indicating any numbers in them, I believe we are between generations. As the temperature increases and the ground become harder, cutworms will cease to become a problem.



Wheat: A Few Armyworms are being found in Central and Western Tennessee

By Russ Patrick



A few larvae have been reported in fields but not at treatable levels at the time of this report. Please keep a close watch because when they get larger in size they can clip wheat heads, which may result in yield losses. Scott Stewart reported finding a few armyworms in West Tennessee. Let's be vigilant and not let population levels explode without our knowledge and experience yield loss. The wheat is in a good position to be damaged, than it had been before the emergence of the heads. Head clipping can seriously impact your yields. Word to the wise, would be to keep a lookout for armyworms. They are difficult to

see from the car. You will have to get out in the field to make your counts.

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Stored Grain: Any Grain that is still in the Bin is More Subject to Stored Grain Insects

By Russ Patrick



I would not prepare any grain bins now to receive new grain. Any insecticides placed in the bins at this time of year will have worn off by the time you get ready to add freshly harvested grain. Keep grain leveled within the storage bin. Aeration problems often result due to having grain peaked or piled within the bin, so spread the grain out level. The only products we have to control insects for stored grain include; Actellic 5E for corn, Storcide II for wheat and small grains. I believe there will be some new products coming down the line sometime next year.

Strange Growth on Trees, Shrubs and Structures

By Darrell Hensley

I have had several calls over the past few week concerning lichens. Lichens are among the most bizarre of all forms of life. That's because every lichen species is actually composed of two, possibly even three, distinct species of organisms. They are symbiotic associations of these organisms and one species is a fungus. Usually the other species is an alga, but sometimes it can be a photosynthesizing bacterium known as a cyanobacterium. Sometimes all three organisms may be found in one lichen. The fungal portion of the lichen typically comprises the majority of a lichen's bulk, though in filamentous and gelatinous lichens this is not always the case. Lichens do not have roots and do not need to tap continuous reservoirs of water like most higher plants, thus they can grow in locations impossible for most plants, such as bare rock, sterile soil or sand, and various artificial structures such as walls, roofs and monuments. Many lichens also grow on woody plants such as trees and shrubs. When growing on plants, lichens are not parasites; they do not consume any part of the plant nor poison it.

Lichens are very sensitive to manufactured pollutants and have been used as an indicator organism to determine if pollution has occurred. Most individuals indicate they are concerned about lichens killing their plant, again they will not hurt the plant. Another concern is that the lichen is unsightly. If this is the case, in most instances there is no need to do anything, However if you do wish to get rid of the growth, example; it's covering ornamental bark, there are a couple of very simple things you can do. First, you can get a scrubbing brush and water and gently rub off the lichen. Or you could cover the trunk or limb for a while with shade cloth; eventually the lichen will die from a lack of sunshine. Currently there is no chemical control for lichens. In the past, such compounds as copper bordeaux have been used for control. Re-growth occurred soon after the chemicals were washed off. Even though the copper bordeaux will eliminate the organisms for a short period of time, it is not recommended due to its short term effect, and because its use is not currently labeled.

For more information concerning lichens, please visit <http://www.backyardnature.net/lichens.htm> or <http://www.lichens.com>

Tobacco Blue Mold Outlook

By Darrell Hensley

Since the initial report of tobacco blue mold in Alachua County FL on March 17, 2008, no new reports in other areas of the US have been released. Extension specialists in Florida have been scouting tobacco fields in Alachua County on a weekly basis and have observed the following situation. After destroying a large percentage of the initial plants with infection plant/seedling bed, the producer placed his remaining plant bed on a 5 to 7 day spray program, which included alternation of azoxystrobin (Quadris) (minor phytotoxicity noted on lower leaves in plant bed only) with dimethomorph (Acrobat or Forum) tank mixed with mancozeb. Plants that were set out into the field were placed on a 7 day spray program using the same fungicide program as indicated above for the plant bed. North central FL has experienced a very dry spring, with little to no rainfall in the past month or two. The dry weather conditions coupled with the tight fungicide program have kept blue mold at bay on this one farm in Alachua County. During scouting, they observed that new foliage was consistently free of infection. Older, lower leaves that had exhibited blue mold lesions were dried up. On few occasions they noted that older lesions contained some active sporulation. After these findings, the producer would tighten up his spray program from 7 to 5 days and invariably, the following week they would not find active sporulation. The producer is only irrigating his tobacco fields when it becomes apparent that the plants are at risk of wilting and death. Fortunately, the blue mold did not appear to go systemic in these plants and the producer has been able to manage this disease in his crop at this time.

Soybean Rust Update

By Beth Long



Asian Soybean Rust on Soybean
Photo courtesy of www.bugwood.org

Since the beginning of 2008, soybean rust has been reported on kudzu in one county in Alabama; nine counties in Florida (two of these counties had reports on coral bean and snap bean); three counties in Louisiana; one county in Mississippi, and three counties in Texas. Most of the infected kudzu in these states has been destroyed. Soybean rust was also reported in four states in Mexico on yam bean and soybean.

Soybean sentinel plots have been established throughout the Gulf Coast region and in many parts of the lower Midwest. In Tennessee, we are establishing 16 sentinel plots across the state, most in middle and west Tennessee counties.

Updates can be found on the Soybean Rust web site located at <http://www.sbrusa.net> or on the toll free Tennessee Soybean Rust HOTLINE, which is updated weekly on Mondays at 1-877-875-2326.

Special Local Need Registrations in Tennessee

By Gene Burgess

Bayer Crop Science received a Section 24C, Special Local Need registration for Monitor 4 Liquid Insecticide to use on tomatoes to control aphids, beet armyworms, black cutworms, cabbage loopers, fruitworms, hornworms, leafminers, stink bugs thrips and variegated cutworms.

Syngenta received a Section 24C, Special Local Need registration for Aatrex 4L to use for weed control in switchgrass grown for production of biofuel.

Chemtura received a Section 24C, Special Local Need registration for Terramaster 4EC fungicide for use on greenhouse tomatoes.

PSEP Reminders

By Gene Burgess

Fee Structure

Several agents have had a question about the PSEP fee structure. The fees listed in EPP Info #779 are for Extension. The Extension Agent collects the fee listed and deposits it into their county account. Then, the agent writes a check for one half of the amount and sends it to my office to support the state-wide PSEP programs. TDA does not receive any part of this fee. The Private Applicator sends an additional fee of \$10 with a copy of TDA's triplicate form to TDA for their certification card. There is no TDA charge for PA recertification. The fees and forms used in the process are listed on the attached publication, EPP Info #779.

Source of On-Site & Online User Guides

In addition to the Online@UT website, you can find the PSEP online guides at the following locations:

W186, Extension Personnel Online & On-Site User's Guide for Online PSEP Courses

W188, Extension Personnel Download Guide for Group Instruction Content

<http://utextension.tennessee.edu/>

Click on Faculty & Staff Resources.

Scroll down to extOL (UT Extension Online Learning).

Click on the two publications.

W187, PSEP Online: User's Guide for Private Applicator Initial & Recertification Programs

<http://utextension.tennessee.edu/>

Click on Publications.

Click on Insects, Pests & Plant Diseases.

Click on the publication.

Initial Certification DVD Status

The DVD for the PA initial certification has been made and will be duplicated and distributed in the very near future.

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Certification & Recertification Reporting

For initial PA certification, the farmer completes the TDA triplicate form and sends it with \$10 to TDA. The agent completes EPP Info 318A and sends it with ½ the registration fee to my office.

For PA recertification, the PA signs the PA recertification roster (EPP Info 318B) and the agent sends it with no fees to TDA and EPP Info 318A with ½ the registration fee to my office.

Deadline for Pesticide Recertification

Remember the deadline for pesticide recertification is October 21, 2008. Commercial Applicators are looking for points. They may earn points from any of your PSEP presentations once a year for a fee. That fee is deposited into your Extension county account and then ½ sent to the PSEP office.

Link to Check on Pesticide Recertification Point Standing

<http://www.tennessee.gov/agriculture/regulate>

Click on Ag Inputs & Pesticides

Click on On-Line Pesticide Systems

Click on Commercial Applicator Point standings

Other PSEP Related Web Sites

UT PSEP (Certification & Licensing) website

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

UTIA e-Marketplace website

<http://agriculture.tennessee.edu/emarketplace>

Online UT Extension PSEP courses

www.agriculture.utk.edu

Click on "Online@UT"

Click on "Login to Online@UT"

Enter your SUPER username and password

Click the "Login" button

Extension Online Course Enrollment for Non-Extension Applicators

Enrollment By Mail:

Applicator obtains an "Extension Online Course Enrollment Form" from their Extension Agent. The agent gets this as a download at the Online@UT PSEP Extension website.

He/she completes the form and sends it with the enrollment and course fees to Shirley Irwin, Admin Specialist I, in Knoxville at the address on the form.

Enrollment eMarketplace:

<http://agriculture.tennessee.edu/emarketplace>

Click on Login button

Create an account by clicking on "New Members Sign Up Here."

Complete the process (See the "Ext. Online Course Enrollment Form" for all the details)

Select the "Conferences and Training" menu

Select the "Extension Online Learning"

Select the training program you desire.

Plant Diagnostic Highlights

By Bruce Kauffman

We received 88 samples from May 7, 2008 to May 16, 2008 including 52 samples via the UT Diagnostic Web Site.

FRUIT & VEGETABLES :

Possible iron deficiency of Irish potatoes; cedar apple rust leaf disease, fire blight, suspected botryosphaeria canker, and weather-caused tree stress of apple; anthracnose leaf disease, Harmony herbicide damage, and common leaf spot of strawberry; possible pythium root disease, 2,4-D injury, flower damage-caused fruit injury, and sunscald damage of tomato; rabbit-caused twig injury on blueberry; suspected light herbicide leaf damage of peach; bacterial blossom blast (*Pseudomonas syringae*) of pear; bacterial leaf spot of mustard greens; alternaria leaf spot of watermelon; shot hole borers (*Scolytus rugulosus*) and stress leaf and bud death of 'Otto Luken' English laurel .

INSECTS, CRUSTACEANS, and MITES :

Possible wireworm feeding on onions; sarcophagid flies dead on hemlock buds; pouch mite leaf gall on silver maple; coxcomb aphid gall and pouch aphid leaf gall of elm; woolly adelgid on hemlock; aphids feeding on birch leaves; suspected scale and/or adverse growing conditions for asparagus fern; granulate ambrosia beetle on 'Celeste' fig; jumping oak wasp gall and wool sower wasp gall of white oak; suspected reproduction weevil feeding and pitch canker disease on Virginia pine; eastern redcedar bark beetle in eastern redcedar; leaf curl of magnolia leaves by eriophid mites; tortricid leaf tying caterpillar causing leaf deformation of pin oak.

Insects in and around the home:

Cigarette or drugstore beetle; termite reproductives; springtails on driveway and patio; nymphalid butterfly chrysalis on garage door; clover mites on house foundation; long-horned beetles emerging from redcedar furniture; emergence of Brood XIV of the 17-year periodical cicada ; possible southern powderpost beetle (*Lyctus planicollis*) in oak flooring .

ORNAMENTALS and TREES :

Leaf spot disease of magnolia; wetwood disease causing bacterial flux of hickory; excessive older leaf drop of holly due to heavy flowering; leaf spot diseases, leaf stress symptoms on boxwood due to too much or too little water and/or winter injury; drought-caused decline and mortality, anthracnose leaf disease and weed eater trunk damage to sugar maple; spruce decline and mortality due to drought; twig canker; stress-caused twig canker; root dieback of spruce caused by over or under watering; leucostoma canker disease and drought stress of cherry; root problem of zelkova initiating leaf drop; overly wet soils causing root decline and fungus gnats of azalea; loss of older needles due to growing stress of eastern white pine; frost damage to Cleveland pear; bacterial blossom blast of Bradford pear; stinkhorn mushroom in hardwood bark mulch; tip dieback due to transplant shock of arborvitae; phomopsis shoot canker of 'Annabelle' hydrangea; phytophthora root rot of northern red oak and creeping juniper; leucostoma canker, botryosphaeria canker and drought stress of English laurel; apple scab leaf and twig disease of crabapple; possible chemical damage to creeping juniper; seiridium canker of Leyland cypress.

SMALL GRAINS :

Barley yellow virus of wheat.

TURF and FORAGE :

Basal anthracnose (*Colletotrichum* species) and poor soil structure causing reduced vigor of creeping bentgrass; pink snow mold of 'Mini-Verde' bermudagrass; ophiostoma root disease of bermudagrass; drechslera leaf spot of fescue.

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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

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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