



First Detector Network News
A Newsletter for the NPDN First Detector Community

***Ralstonia solanacearum* Race 3 Biovar 2 E-learning Module Released! ~A. Hodges**

The National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) is pleased to announce the release of the *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2 e-learning module.

R. solanacearum causes bacterial wilts on a wide range of crops and ornamentals, including potato, tomato, and geranium. It is one of the most damaging plant pathogenic bacteria worldwide, responsible for several \$ billion US losses yearly. One subgroup of *R. solanacearum* called race 3 biovar 2 (R3bv2) is not present in the United States, but is of high risk of introduction through infected geranium cuttings imported from off-shore production sites. If introduced, R3bv2 could seriously affect the potato industry. It has been listed as a Select Agent plant pathogen and is subject to the strictest biosecurity regulations in the

United States. This educational program on *R. solanacearum* is part of a USDA-NRI project titled: “*Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2: Detection, exclusion, and analysis of a select agent pathogen”.

Upon completing this module you will:

- Be familiar with R3bv2 status as a select agent in the U.S.
- Be familiar with symptoms on potato, geranium, and tomato.
- Be familiar with current isolation and identification methods.
- Know survival strategies for R3bv2 and disease epidemiology.
- Know best management strategies and local resources for obtaining management recommendations.
- Know how to submit samples following USDA-

APHIS recommendations.

How to access the module?

In order to view the *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2 e-learning module, go to the [NPDN Training and Educational Site](#) and click on ‘take the online modules’.

If you have an account set up with the NPDN, use your login and password to view this module. **If you do not have an account**, you will need to create one in order to view this module along with others on the site. The website contains simple instructions for creating your account.
Get a Module Certificate of Completion!

Story continued on page 2

Highlights:

- Spotted wing drosophila (SWD), *Drosophila suzukii* has been found in California, Florida, Oregon and Washington State. Under IPPC standards Read more [HERE](#).
- First report of Spotted wing drosophila (SWD) in CANADA. Under IPPC standards is considered a pest **present, under investigation**. Read more [HERE](#).
- Federal quarantine established in Athens and Vinton counties in OH for Gypsy Moth. Read more [HERE](#).

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Bark Beetle Lucid Key Available On-Line

Bark beetles as a group have the potential to wreak havoc on our native forests and commercial producers. One only needs to look as far as Massachusetts (the Asian Longhorn beetle) or to the southeastern United States (Redbay ambrosia beetle) to see examples. They can also be a difficult group to identify. That is why we are pleased to draw your attention to a new on line

tool that is available.

The Bark Beetle Lucid Key is designed for first responders with minimal entomological training. It is also rigorous enough for entomology students and professionals. Using Lucid v.3.4.1 technology this key makes it possible to separate genera of *Curculionidae* bark beetle subfamily *Scolytinae* of the southeastern United States that are classified into the two

tribes hylesinini and scolytini.

This tool has been designed to be simple to use and to understand. It's author's caution however if you are unfamiliar with Lucid technology it is best to read the 'How to Use' section.

***We appreciate
First Detectors
our eyes and
ears in the
fields!***

Late Blight in 2010

With late blight having been such a serious problem in 2009 it seems to be on everyone's radar. Here in Florida the weather conditions have been conducive to the emergence of late blight.

Specifically it has been found in tomato and potato fields in Hendry county. Although it doesn't seem particularly bad and growers are reporting very isolated incidences. With this in mind I would

like to direct your attention to [an article by Dr. Bill Fry of Cornell University](#). Short of resistant varieties of plants all one can do is to be vigilant and practice good gardening procedures.

Ralstonia solanacearum Race 3 Biovar E-learning con't

The *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2 e-learning module includes a post-test. A 'certificate of completion' for this module will be available for download once the mod-

ule has been completed at the 70% level or higher.

Module Credits:

Author : Patrice G. Champoiseau (UF/IFAS)
Technical Authoring/Tool Design: Howard Beck (UF/IFAS) Specialist & Diagnostic Reviewers: Caitilyn Allen

(University of Wisconsin-Madison), Carrie L. Harmon and Amanda Hodges (SPDN, UF/IFAS), Jeffrey B. Jones and Timur M. Momol (UF/IFAS), and Gail Ruhl (Purdue University). This project is supported by the NRI of the USDA CSREES. Award # 2007-55605-17843.

Training and Other Updates

- **Workshop: 3/12-13/10** Whitney Marine Labs, St. Augustine, FL. [UF Honey Bee Research and Extension Lab](#) will be offering the [3rd annual Bee College](#). Bee College is the largest educational honey bee event and is open to everyone. Beginner, advanced, and classes for those who don't even keep bees are offered.
- **Workshop: 3/23-25/10** Oregon State University. [Adult Woodborer and Bark Beetle Identification](#).
- **First Detector Training: 4/6/10**. This training is with M. Bess Dicklow and will be held in Amherst, MA. [Register here](#).
- **First Detector Training: 4/13/10** This training is with M. Bess Dicklow and will be held in Marlborough, MA.. [Register here](#).
- [NCPDN Regional Meeting](#): 4/6-7/10. St Paul, MN.
- **Workshop: 5/4-6/10** University of Florida Gainesville, FL. [Adult Woodborer & Bark Beetle ID workshop](#). Focus is on eastern species.
- **Workshop: 5/17-20/10** University Park, Pennsylvania. [NPDN/PSU Plant Disease Diagnostic Workshop](#). This workshop is geared toward plant diagnosticians of all levels.
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- **Conference 7/24-28, 2010** Pennsylvania. Penn State Center for Pollinator Research is sponsoring the [1st International Conference on Pollinator Biology, Health, and Policy](#).
- [Soybean Rust Short Course](#): 8/26-27/2010. UF-NFREC, Quincy, FL. This course has been designed with the agricultural specialist or consultant in mind. Please follow the link for more information and registration.
- **Workshop: 10/11-14/10** Miami, FL. [UF-CTA Potential Invasive Pests Workshop](#). This highly relevant workshop targets regulatory agencies, growers and extension agents.



Don't forget, you can now follow the NPDN on Twitter. Get timely, relevant 'tweets' here!

On the Web

- [Link to printable PDF's of pest alerts](#). Check it out!
- ["Killing bedbugs in your laundry"](#). Do to an increase in search hits for bedbugs the Southern IPM has made it the topic of their weekly blog.
- Check it out.
- The blog that's ["All about Blueberries"](#)
- All about rice from the LSU Ag Center. Check it out [here](#).
- [Citrus Industry Magazine](#). See a preview of the new guidelines for HLB or the dreaded Citrus Greening. The full article will be featured in the April 2010 edition.



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Editors: Carrie L Harmon, Rachel Brown

Click here if you would like to receive the newsletter via email or to submit articles for inclusion in the next newsletter.

The NPDN is a network of state and federal officials, land grant universities, and first detectors whose mission is to detect, diagnose, and disseminate information regarding high consequence plant disease or pests. The NPDN was established in 2002 in response to a need for greater agricultural security. Over the past eight years the NPDN has grown into an internationally respected consortium of plant diagnostic laboratories. The five regions that make up the NPDN are the: NEPDN, SPDN, NCPDN, GPDN, and WPDN. Please feel free to browse the links to the various regions to get a better idea of what is going on in your part of the country.

Integrated Pest Management...

- Principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) [HERE](#).
- Penn State IPM [HERE](#).
- IPM institute of North America [HERE](#).
- North Central IPM Center [HERE](#).
- Northeast IPM Center [HERE](#).
- Southern IPM Center [HERE](#).
- Western IPM Center [HERE](#).
- Biological Control Information Center (NC State) [HERE](#).
- Radcliffe's IPM WORLD TEXT-BOOK [HERE](#).
- California School IPM website [HERE](#).
- University of Florida National School IPM Information [HERE](#).
- IPMnet news [HERE](#).

Employment Opportunities...

Please check back next month for more Employment Opportunities.