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# PLANT PEST Newsletter

MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE

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**PLEASE NOTE:** The newsletter will now be published monthly. We will try to get it to you by the 20th of each month. Obviously, this month we were unable to do that. Computer users, please check directory starting the 20th of each month for the newsletter listing.

CORRECTION

In PPST19 (September 4, 1987) I incorrectly stated that Vendex was being withdrawn for greenhouse mite control. Plietran (cyhexatin) was withdrawn, not Vendex. All other comments were correct.

--Mark Ascerno, Extension Entomologist

## CROP PEST MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

The seventh annual crop pest management workshop will be held on November 18-19 at the Earle Brown Continuing Education Center on the St. Paul Campus. The workshop provides in-depth, high-quality coverage of contemporary issues in crop pest management and production. This fall's three topics include: weed thresholds, herbicides and soybeans; groundwater, endangered species and pesticide/nitrogen regulation; and alfalfa management. Designed for everyone who advises farmers, the course is especially created for Crop Consultants, Agronomists, Ag. Chem. dealers, VO-AG instructors, and county Extension agents. Take advantage of this opportunity to hear and interact with nationally and regionally recognized speakers. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged, since space is limited. Contact me at 624-9272 for more information.

-- Kenneth Ostlie, Extension Entomologist

## WEED SCIENCE

**PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE** -- The Weed Science Society of America is an organization which encourages and promotes the development of knowledge about weeds and their control. The society publishes two journals, Weed Science and Weed Technology. Weed Technology is a new journal which publishes research papers, often of an applied nature, by agricultural professionals. Membership in the Society is \$40 per year, with student affiliate membership available for \$20. Membership includes receipt of Weed Science, Weed Technology, and WSSA Newsletter. Individual subscriptions to Weed Technology can be obtained for \$20.

The WSSA publishes a number of other publications, including:

**Composite List of Weeds** (1984) contains names of 1,934 weed species of current or potential importance in the U.S. and Canada. \$10.00.

**Herbicide Handbook, Fifth Edition** (1983) contains information on 138 herbicides, desiccants, and plant growth regulators. \$10.00.

**Adjuvants for Herbicides** (1982) contains practical and theoretical information on adjuvants, with chapters on terminology, classification, and chemistry; adjuvant use; action on plant surfaces; action and fate in plants; action and fate in soils; and toxicology. \$10.00.

**Leafy Spurge** (1985) treats leafy spurge problem, origins of leafy spurge in North America, taxonomy of leafy spurge, morphology and anatomy of leafy spurge, biology of leafy spurge, cultural control, chemical control, biological control, and integrated management of leafy spurge. \$10.00.

**Weed Control in Limited-Tillage Systems** (1985) deals with weed control research which has led to the development of limited-tillage systems and no-tillage systems. It emphasizes the role of herbicides in weed control, which is essential to the success of limited- or no-tillage systems. \$24.50.

**Reviews of Weed Science, Vol. 1** (1985) covers the historical perspective of weed science, interaction of herbicides with other agrichemicals in higher plants, and genetic variability of response to plant growth regulators. \$9.00.

**Reviews of Weed Science, Vol. 2** (1986) covers mycoherbicides, naturally occurring chemical compounds having herbicide activity, enhanced herbicide degradation, and stimulation of weed seed germination. \$12.00.

Order these publications from WSSA, 309 W. Clark Street, Champaign, IL 61820. Remit payment with order. All items are shipped prepaid within 72 hours from receipt of order.

Submitted by Jeff Gunsolus, Extension Weed Control

### MISCELLANEOUS

**DIAL U HIGHLIGHTS** -- For the period ending October 15, 1987

**Geraniums** -- If you still have healthy geraniums outdoors, they can be brought in and overwintered for next year. It's best to keep them growing actively in pots near a bright window or under fluorescent lights in the basement. Storing them bare-rooted doesn't work so well with our modern warm, dry basements. Even if they survive, it can take half the summer before they resume flowering.

**Yellowjackets Almost Finished** -- Yellowjackets have been active for about 7 months this season, but as the freezing temperatures approach their days are numbered. Yellowjackets will not survive the winter and will die when hard frosts occur. Only new queens that have left the nest previously will survive until next spring.

If a yellowjacket nest is on or in your home, it is best to leave it alone and let the cold weather do the 'dirty work' for you. Those nests that are inside in a warm area will still die because they will starve. Don't caulk up areas on your home that yellowjackets are using until you're sure the nest is dead (at least 2 hard frosts). Yellowjackets could come inside if their outside exit is covered. If yellowjackets do come in, they can be killed with a household spray containing a pyrethrin.

**Rhizosphaera needlecast**, a fungal disease which attacks weakened blue spruce trees, is easily diagnosed this time of year. This needle disease produces tiny black fungal structures the size of pin points in neat rows on infected spruce needles. A good pair of eyes or a magnifying glass will help to confirm this disease.

Infected needles eventually fall to the ground, leaving only the tips of the branches green. After several years of infection the tree may die. Where needlecast is a problem, reduce stress on the tree and spray twice in the spring with the fungicide Chlorothalonil, following label directions.

**Seeding Lawns** -- People are still calling to see if they can seed new lawns this fall. If the site is relatively level, and will be free of foot traffic this winter, it can be dormant-seeded. Prepare the soil, but wait to rake the seed in until just before the ground freezes. Snow cover will protect the seed, and when it melts next spring they should sprout.

**Boxelder bugs (BEB)** continue to be a problem, especially on sunny days. Although they are harmless, they are still a nuisance. BEB that are found on the exterior of a home can be sprayed with an insecticide (diazinon, Sevin) or with a mixture of 1/2 cup powdered laundry detergent in 1 gallon of water (test first to be sure siding will be stained). Use physical means--e.g., a vacuum cleaner--to remove BEB inside. Check outside for areas that BEB may be using to come indoors and repair or cover if possible to reduce numbers coming in. (See Extension publication AG-FS-0998, "Boxelder Bugs").

**Apple diseases** -- Sooty blotch and fly speck are 2 fungal diseases which have been unusually common on apple fruits this fall. They do little or no actual damage to the fruit, but their presence on the fruit's surface lowers its quality and market value.

Deborah Brown  
Horticulture

Jeff Hahn  
Entomology

Cynthia Ash  
Plant Pathology

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