



# PLANT PEST Newsletter

MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE

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February 24, 1989

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**Captan Suspension Hearing** set for March 1 & 2, 1989 by EPA - ALJ (Administrative Law Judge) J.F. Greene. A Captan Task Force hearing request is considered a "Protective Measure" as it appears virtually certain that EPA will grant the relief requested by amending the NOIS (notice of intent to suspend) or by some other means. The above notice was reported in the Kansas Pesticide Newsletter February 8, 1989. It appears that the suspension 1) will not affect Technical Products, 2) will only apply to agricultural food uses which are not supported by the required crop residue data and 3) would not suspend flowable concentrate uses.

—Ward C. Stienstra, Extension Plant Pathologist

**PLANT DISEASE CLINIC**

**Wheat Scab Quality Testing**—The Plant Disease Clinic is again offering wheat seed quality testing. Seed quality will be evaluated on the basis of a germination test, an emergence/vigor test, and a culture test. Test results will indicate the potential stand the grower could expect if the tested seedlot was used for sowing. Suggestions will be offered regarding the need for cleaning the seed, fungicide seed treatment, and/or selection of a new seed source.

Please follow these guidelines when submitting seed for testing:

- 1) Submit 1/4 pound of seed. Collect several subsamples from the seedlot and mix thoroughly to ensure a representative sample.
- 2) Enclose a check for \$20.00, made payable to the University of Minnesota.
- 3) Allow 3-4 weeks for test results.
- 4) Send or deliver to:

Plant Disease Clinic  
495 Borlaug Hall  
1991 Upper Buford Circle  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108

—Jill D. Pokorny, Director, Plant Disease Clinic

**For more information regarding the Plant Pest Newsletter  
contact Extension Plant Pathology 612-625-6290.**

## DIAL U HIGHLIGHTS—Period: Through Feb. 17, 1989

**Seeding indoors**—March 1st is the best starting date for planting onions from seed. Keep them under fluorescent lights, 12-14 hours daily, or in a very bright window. If they get too tall and floppy, give them a haircut. They'll keep growing, and will be ready to plant outside by late April or early May.

Wax begonias, coleus, geraniums and pansies should be started from seed around the middle of February. Because they take so long to reach planting size, it is not practical to grow them from seed unless you have a light set-up with the fixtures kept only 4-6" above the seedlings. A sunny window will yield only disappointing, spindly growth.

The same is true for snapdragons, impatiens, lobelia, nicotiana, salvia, and petunias, which should be sown March 1st, indoors.

**Boxelder bugs (BEB)** remain a common question. We received up to 30 calls a day during the end of January when the temperatures were in the 40's. The most effective control for BEB is to kill them as they are seen. Once BEB get into walls and cracks and crevices, there is no effective or practical control before they come into houses. See AG-FS-0998 *Boxelder Bugs*.

**Ants**—We have identified a variety of ants this winter, including carpenter ants, field ants, pavement ants, cornfield ants, yellow ants, pharaoh ants, and thief ants. The nesting habits, food preferences, and control tactics of these ants often vary, making identification important. There is not one control for all ants. Extermination efforts against the wrong ant will probably be ineffective. Questions on ant identifications can be directed to Dial U.

**Pantry Pests** including Indianmeal moths, flour beetles, and sawtoothed grain beetles are still common. See PPST 24 and AG-FS-1000 *Pantry Pests*.

*Deborah Brown*  
*Horticulture*

*Jeffrey Hahn*  
*Entomology*

## EXTENSION ENTOMOLOGY

People who are interested in flea and cockroach control may want to consider insect growth regulators (IGRs). IGRs interfere with the immature insect's normal development, creating a nonfeeding, sterile adult. IGRs are very effective against immature fleas and cockroaches but are ineffective on the adults. IGRs are virtually nontoxic to mammals. IGRs available in the Twin Cities include FleaEnder (active ingredient Precor (methoprene)) and RoachEnder (active ingredient Gencor (hydroprene)). Both products are formulated with chlorpyrifos (to kill the adults).

An informal survey was conducted to find where these products are available. They were found in the Twin Cities at Walgreens and Country Stores and can probably be generally found in hardware stores, variety stores (e.g. Targets and K-Marts), grocery stores, pharmacies, and other similar stores. Also some pet stores, veterinarians, and pest control companies sell these products to the public. The availability in a particular store can depend on the season. Stores that stock these insecticides in the spring may be sold out in the winter.

There are probably other IGR formulations available to the public but no others were discovered during the informal survey. There are also new IGRs that are available to pest control operators only (e.g. fenoxycarb).

—Jeffrey Hahn, *Extension Entomology*

**Beekeepers' Management Short Course  
Dr. Basil Furgala**

**FOR:** Anyone interested in learning the basics of beekeeping for profit or hobby.  
**WHEN:** Friday and Saturday, March 24 and 25, 1989  
**WHERE:** Room 495 Hodson Hall  
**FEE:** \$25.00

**Pre-registration is encouraged because registration is limited.**

For further information, or to receive a registration form, contact:  
Department of Entomology,  
University of Minnesota  
(612) 624-3636

**RENEWAL FOR PLANT PEST NEWSLETTER**

You are currently on our mailing list to receive the Plant Pest Newsletter. If you would like to continue receiving the newsletter, please complete and return the form below to our office. The price of the newsletter will be \$15.00. Please make your check payable to the University of Minnesota. Our season will begin the middle of April.

**University personnel of associated states will be continued on our  
subscription list.**

**SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FORM**

I wish to remain on the mailing list  
for the Plant Pest Newsletter.  
Enclosed is my check for \$15.00.

Please make checks payable to the  
**University of Minnesota**

**RETURN THIS FORM TO:**  
Debbie Baden Drange  
Department of Plant Pathology  
495 Borlaug Hall  
1991 Upper Buford Circle  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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## PLANT PEST NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE FOR 1989-90

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April 13  
April 20  
April 27

May 4  
May 11  
May 18  
May 25

June 1  
June 8  
June 15  
June 22  
June 29

July 6  
July 13  
July 20  
July 27

August 10  
August 24

September 7  
September 21

October 19  
November 16  
December 21

January 18  
February 15  
March 15

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**Department of Plant Pathology  
University of Minnesota  
495 Borlaug Hall  
St. Paul, MN 55108**

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