PLANT PEST Newsletter

MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE | UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

PPST18 | August 21, 1992

IN THIS ISSUE

BLACK LIGHT TRAPS CAPTURES—Data collected by: University of Minnesota, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and Private cooperators.

Trap reporting from 8/11-8/19/92

EUROPEAN CORN BORER

District	Location	Aver.	High	Date/Max
NW	CROOKSTON	0.43	2.00	920813
WC	FERGUS FALLS	0.25	1.00	920817
WC	MORRIS	2.00	7.00	920818
C	GLENCOE	20.43	43.00	920818
C	BIRD ISLAND	83.29	224.00	920817
C	GROVE CITY	19.00	63.00	920818
C	GAYLORD	28.14	76.00	920818
C	OLIVIA	8.86	50.00	920818
SW	LAMBERTON	38.86	124.00	920818
SC	BLUE EARTH	38.43	109.00	920817 *-2
SC	BLUE EARTH	12.33	41.00	920817
SC	LE SUEUR E	46.43	139.50	920817 *-2
SC	LE SUEUR W	33.00	103.00	920818
SC	SLEEPY EYE	46.29	195.00	920818
SC	SLEEPY EYE	36.86	202.00	920818
SC	WASECA SES	10.71	39.00	920818
SE	CALEDONIA	0.75	3.00	920818

*-Number of nights...High derived by average over multiple nights.
+ More than 1 night with maximum value.

Observation dates: 920811 TO 920819

Bruce Potter
Research Fellow, MDA

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

MISCELLANEOUS

PLANT DISEASE CLINIC

The Plant Disease Clinic processed 177 samples during the month of July. Of those samples 73 were routine cultures, 46 were ELISA assays and 58 were nematode counts. The following list is an example of samples received by the clinic:

alfalfa	-	*Leptosphaerulina* sp. leaf spot, *Rhizoctonia* sp. and *Phytophthora* sp. root rot
soybeans	-	*Rhizoctonia* sp. and *Phytophthora* sp. root rot, soybean cyst nematodes
corn	-	*Kabatiella* sp. leaf spot
peas	-	powdery mildew
ginseng	-	*Pythium* sp. root rot
lupine	-	anthracnose
New Guinea impatiens	-	Tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV)
Alstroemeria	-	Alstroemeria mosaic virus
Exacum	-	TSWV
Lisianthus	-	Botrytis stem rot
Chrysanthemum	-	*Pythium* sp. root rot
azalea	-	*Cylindrocladium* sp. stem rot, *Pythium* sp. root rot
strawberry	-	*Botrytis* sp. fruit rot, angular leaf spot (*Xanthomonas* sp.), nematodes (*Xiphenema* sp.)
turf	-	anthracnose
oak	-	oak wilt
elm	-	Dutch elm disease
crabapple	-	fire blight

hay and silage samples for mold ID

Soybean Cyst Nematode Testing

Just a reminder to soybean growers who want soybean cyst nematode testing performed. When sending in soil samples for SCN testing, please follow these sampling procedures:

1) Limit the number of acres represented in a single composite sample to 1 acre.

2) Using a soil tube or a shovel, collect samples at random from around problem spots, not in the worst portions or areas, and near field entrance points. Samples should be taken to a depth of 9-10 inches from within the rows. With a soil tube collect 10 cores, or with a shovel take 1/4 cup of soil from near the shovel tip at several locations. In either case, combine the 10 subsamples as a composite sample for each 1 acre sampled. Each composite sample should be at least 2 pints of soil. For predictive soil sampling to be representative, composite samples must be collected from several "good" and several "bad" areas within a given field. Label each sample good or bad and keep them separated.

3) Collect the soil samples in plastic bags to reduce drying. Label each bag with appropriate information (see below). Avoid storing the samples in the sun and ship as soon as possible.

4) Please indicate the following information:
   a) Name, address, and telephone number.
   b) County and **TOWNSHIP** where samples were collected.
   c) Estimate acreage of sampled area.
   d) Cropping history of sampled area.
   e) Current crop in sampled area.

5) Send samples, background information and payment to:

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

6) Checks should be made payable to the University of Minnesota according to the following fee schedule:

   Egg Test: $15.00

Sandra Gould
Plant Disease Clinic

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County Agents: Please Alert Master Gardeners of the Following Items

Leaf spots and rots—Many annuals are having a tough time this summer. Cool temperatures, frequent light rains in many areas and heavy dews have provided good conditions for the development of leaf spots, rots and blights. The spots often develop first on the lower leaves and progress upward, they may have light gray to white centers. Rots may start on the fallen petals or lower stems and will appear brown to gray. Little can be done to get rid of existing infections other than to remove them completely. Thin to increase air circulation, remove spent blossoms, water early in the day and only at the base of the plant. Preventative fungicides are available for a number of plants and can be used to prevent further infection.

Tree troubles—It's deja-vu all over again! The most common horticulture call has been about shade trees behaving peculiarly this summer.

In addition to showing premature fall color, some trees (particularly maples) are losing green, apparently healthy, leaves. Others appear blackened due to a fine coating of sooty mold growing on honeydew, the sticky sap-like material secreted by aphids. Still other leaves look brown and crisp in blotches and around the edges.

We are not recommending any special care, at this point. Do water the root area of these trees if we get into some hot, dry weather. You should also consider fertilizing late this fall, once they're dormant, or early next spring.

Greenbugs in lawns—These aphids were first reported in the Twin Cities area the last week of July and have been commonly reported since. The cool weather apparently has been favorable to greenbug populations. Greenbugs are brought up from the south on wind currents and literally show up overnight. They prefer feeding on bluegrass turf in shaded areas. They feed on the sap of plants with their needle-like mouthparts. This feeding discolors the grass, turning it a burnt orange color. Carefully check suspected areas to verify greenbugs (look closely as they are very small). If left untreated, greenbugs can seriously injure lawns. Control greenbug infestations with acephate (Orthene).

Transplanting questions—While it's a good time to transplant most flowering perennials, we do not recommend transplanting raspberries or other woody plants this late in the season. It's best to wait till early spring so you can move them as soon as the ground thaws and dries enough to work up.

Often people call now because they're moving or building an addition to their home and have no choice but to transplant. In those cases, move the plants, reduce their height if they're large, and be sure to mulch them with straw, woodchips, or shredded bark before the soil freezes.

Brown dog ticks—The majority of tick samples we have seen lately have been immature brown dog ticks Although brown dog ticks prefer dogs for their blood meals, they may occasionally bite humans. These ticks are very small, about 1/16 inch long and very difficult to identify (For those familiar with tick taxonomy, they lack an anal groove, have festoons and eyes, and possess two spurs on the first coxae, the inner spur being smaller). Brown dog ticks are not known carriers of Lyme disease but because of their small size may be confused with immature deer ticks which are known vectors.

Submit ticks suspected of being deer ticks for identification. Please do not tape them or wrap them in tissue paper (especially if they are still alive). The best way to send them is in a small container with a tightly fitting lid. If they are still alive, fill the container with rubbing alcohol; this not only kills ticks but preserves them. See AG-FO-1013, *Minnesota ticks and their control.*

Pruning trees and shrubs—Prune birch now; it's OK to prune oaks now, too. Wait till late February or March to prune fruit trees, including those with fireblight. (Mark diseased limbs now so you can find them easily when the trees are dormant.) Wait till elms are dormant, too.

Most other shade trees can be pruned now, but you might want to wait till next year before pruning maples, ash, or other trees that appear to be in trouble. Then you can assess not only which limbs must be removed, but whether it's worth putting time and/or effort into the trees.

Hold off pruning most evergreens till late next spring, after new growth begins to expand.You could do some minor trimming of junipers and yews, however, if they've put on an exceptional amount of growth this summer.

Raspberry skeletonization—There have been several reports recently of the new growth on raspberries being skeletonized, i.e. a layer of leaf tissue being eaten except for the veins, giving it a 'lacy appearance'. The responsible insects were not seen in any of cases. According to the literature, the most likely candidate is the raspberry fruitworm, a type of beetle. The larvae are worm-like and about 1/4 inch when full grown. The adult beetle is brownish, hairy and about 3/16 inch long. Both stages can skeletonize leaves.

Control is not important for light or moderate infestations, although heavy feeding may require control. Control insect problems with insecticidal soap, carbaryl (Sevin) or malathion. Before you treat, be sure that the insects causing the damage are still there.

Other common calls—Verticillium wilt on ash and maple, powdery mildew, abiotic problems, wildflower/prairie plant/wild fruit IDs, weed control on poison ivy and other pesky plants, wasps!, and carpenter ants.

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Deborah L Brown *Horticulture*

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