



PLANT PEST Newsletter

MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

PPST23 **December 16, 1988**

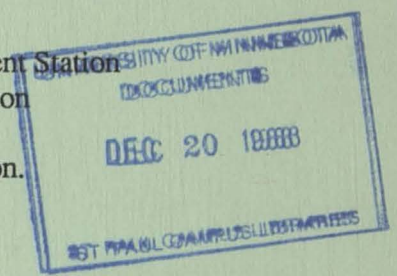
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CROPS AND SOILS UPDATE—Crops and Soils Update to be given for County Extension Agents and Vo-Ag Teachers.

Locations

Crookston—December 20, at the Crookston Experiment Station
 Morris—December 21, at the Morris Experiment Station

Contact the Experiment Stations for further information.
 Crookston 218-281-6510, Morris 612-589-1711.



WHEAT MEETINGS SCHEDULED—“Wheat Fine Tuning” meetings for growers have been scheduled for January:

- January 4, 1989—Hallock, Minnesota
- January 5, 1989—Baudette, Minnesota
- January 6, 1989—Red Lake Falls, Minnesota
- January 11, 1989—Hawley, Minnesota

Contact your local County Extension Office for more Information.

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

MINNESOTA CROP IMPROVEMENT MEETING—The Minnesota Crop Improvement Annual meeting has been scheduled for January 15-17, 1989. The meeting is primarily for Seed Growers and Seed Company Representatives. For more information, contact the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association at 612-625-7766.

Location: Sheraton Park Place
Wayzata Blvd.
Minneapolis

—Roger K. Jones, Extension Plant Pathologist

AGRICULTURAL COMMERCIAL AND NON-COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING WORKSHOPS FOR RECERTIFICATION FOR 1990.

If you need to be recertified for 1990 in categories **A—General Ground, C—Ag Herbicides and D—Ag Insecticides/Fungicides** you may attend one of the workshops listed below. By attending one of these workshops you will be recertified for three years: 1990, 1991 and 1992. As a result of a change in state law, many people were required to be certified for the first time last year and now need recertification for 1990. The workshops are being held around the state this year to accommodate these people. The correspondence study course will be available next spring and summer for those of you seeking recertification for 1990 and can not attend one of the January workshops. Recertification by correspondence study is for one year only.

If you have completed the requirements for certification for 1989, you will receive registration information in the mail in December. Other people who would like information about the workshops may contact:

Nancy Harvey
Program Coordinator
Educational Development System
405 Coffey Hall
1420 Eckles Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108
(612) 625-8215 or 1-800-367-5363

| Date | Town | Locations |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| January 10, 1989 | Rochester | Holiday Inn South |
| January 11, 1989 | Mankato | Best Western Garden Inn |
| January 12, 1989 | Worthington | Holiday Inn |
| January 13, 1989 | Montevideo | Best Western Royal Inn |
| January 18, 1988 | Thief River Falls | Best Western |
| January 19, 1988 | Detroit Lakes | Technical Institute |
| January 20, 1988 | Alexandria | Technical Institute |
| January 25, 1988 | St. Paul Campus | Earl Brown Center |

—Dean Herzfeld, Assistant Extension Specialist, PPAT

DIAL U HIGHLIGHTS—Period: Through Dec. 15, 1988

Pantry insects, such as flour beetles, saw-toothed grain beetles, and Indianmeal moths have been commonly found in dried food products including flour, pasta, pet food, and bird seed. Infested material can be thrown out or can be sterilized and saved by freezing the food for 3-7 days. Uninfested products should be stored in insect-proof containers with tightly sealing lids (e.g., glass jars, heavy plastic containers) to prevent insect attacks. If the insects can't find any food to eat, they will starve. Vacuuming crumbs and other accumulated food material in cupboards, between appliances and cupboards, etc. also eliminates potential food sources. See AG-FS-1000, Pantry Pests.

Amaryllis—It's time to bring last year's amaryllis up out of the basement to force it into another bloom cycle. Water the soil thoroughly, then put the bulb in a sunny window. Water whenever the soil feels dry, a bit below the surface.

Boxelder bugs (BEB) are still being found alive indoors much to people's surprise and chagrin. Unfortunately this trend will continue throughout the winter, especially on warm, sunny days. Anytime the hibernating bugs are warmed, which could also result from BEB being near fireplaces, furnaces, and similar heating sources, they wake up thinking it is spring and become active inside. The only practical control is to kill them as they are seen. See AG-FS-0998, Boxelder Bugs.

House plant insects—Scales, mealybugs, and fungus gnats have been the most common insects of house plants lately. Scale insects and mealybugs can be controlled by washing with a mild detergent or spraying with Orthene or malathion. Fungus gnat larvae live in moist soil where they feed on fungi, mold, and other decaying organic material. Reduce soil moisture if possible and/or apply malathion to the soil for control.

Check your house plants carefully for spider mites over the holidays and beyond. Christmas trees and evergreen boughs may have dormant mite eggs when they're brought indoors. Warm temps bring the mites out of dormancy, then with a little help they often make their way to house plants where they'll congregate on the underside of leaves.

See AG-FS-1031, *House Plant Insect Control*.

Other common calls include questions on carpenter ants and cluster flies.

Deborah Brown
Horticulture

Jeffrey Hahn
Entomology

The information given in this publication is for educational purposes only. References to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Minnesota Extension Service is implied.

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

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