PLANT PEST Newsletter

MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

PPST24 January 27, 1988

IN THIS ISSUE PAGE

PLANT PATHOLOGY

GRAIN STORAGE MEETINGS will be held at the following locations on the following dates. For information on specific meeting places, please contact the county agents in each county:

February 1, 1988	Baudette Roseau
February 2, 1988	Greenbush Kittson County
February 3, 1988	Marshall West Polk County
February 4, 1988	East Polk County
February 5, 1988	Norman County
February 23, 1988	Chippewa County

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND COUNTIES COOPERATING

DRY EDIBLE BEAN MEETING

February 17, 1988 Staples, Minnesota

For further information on this meeting, contact Mel Wiens or the Irrigation Center at 218-894-1053.

ENDANGERED SPECIES -- The Environmental Protection Agency announced Jan 7, 1988 (received at MN Jan 19,1988), that it is deferring implementation of its pesticide program to protect endangered species until the 1989 growing season. This will allow for greater involvement of affected parties and is the result of congressional action directing the EPA not to enforce labeling before September 15, 1988. The goal of the EPA is a better, more workable program in the long run that results in improved protection for endangered species and at the same time avoids any unnecessary disruption of agriculture or other pesticide uses. During 1988, the EPA will solicit suggestions for revisions, conduct broad public education, refine data supporting the program, and work with federal and state agencies.

The program just delayed would have called for product labels to include a list of states and counties containing endangered species potentially affected by certain pesticides. The labels would refer users to county bulletins for further information on the application restrictions on pesticide use. These county bulletins were to be available in county agricultural extension offices, as well as where the pesticides are sold.

At this time the proposed program may undergo numerous changes before it is implemented. This will require additional work because at some time in the future there will be prohibitions on the use of some pesticides in the range of endangered species. The EPA is expected to provide a notice in the Federal Register asking for public comment and review and we will keep you informed about this and encourage public education about the Endangered Species Act.

Ward C. Stienstra, Extension Plant Pathologist

MISCELLANEOUS

PLANT DISEASE CLINIC - Wheat Scab Quality Test - The Plant Disease Clinic will again offer a wheat seed quality test. Last winter we processed 150 samples and received feedback from growers praising the usefulness of the test results in evaluating the quality of seedlots. 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 1) cleaning the seed, 2) fungicide seed treatment, and/or 3) 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

DIAL U HIGHLIGHTS -- Through January 15, 1988

Mosquitoes in January? Although it may be hard to believe, some Twin Cities residents recently found mosquitoes in their homes. In some cases, the problem can be traced back to mosquitoes multiplying in standing water during the summer. In the fall the adult mosquitoes enter into a quiet, inactive phase which lasts until the next spring. However, if they are disturbed before then, they will fly around, usually startling the unsuspecting resident. Fortunately they are not interested in feeding and will not bite people.

Recycle Christmas trees -- People who haven't taken Christmas trees down yet might consider sawing off the branches to use for protecting any young yews, junipers, and arborvitae in the yard. Just stick the branches in the ground to help screen the young evergreens from the potentially damaging bright rays of winter sun which not only can hit them directly, but reflect off of surrounding snow.

Prune oak trees now to avoid spreading oak wilt fungus -- Tree infection by oak wilt is a major concern for homeowners with oak trees. This disease is often easily prevented by pruning during the proper months. Since oak trees ecome infected in late April, May and June, they should not be pruned or damaged from April 15 through July 1. (If pruning must be done or damage occurs between these dates, a tree wound dressing should be applied immediately.) Therefore, now is an excellent time to prune oak trees.

Boxelder bugs in January! As the weather gets colder, furnaces are used more. The end result in some cases is that boxelder bugs hiding in wall voids or other places inside come out because of the warmth. Physical removal of boxelder bugs as they are seen is the only control that is necessary.

Houseplant care in winter -- Even though our homes are awfully dry in winter, houseplants should not be misted to raise humidity. The increased humidity will be only temporary and heighten the risk of developing leaf spot diseases on the foliage. Instead, be extra careful in watering. Feel the soil to determine when to water; don't just go by the calendar. When plants are watered properly, low humidity becomes much less of a problem.

Other frequent insect calls include pantry insects (see AG-FS-1000) and houseplant insects (see AG-FS-1024).

Deborah Brown	Jeff Hahn	Cynthia Ash
Horticulture	Entomology	Plant Pathology

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