

Plant Health Advisor News

June 2006

Notes from the Field

Brian Hudelson, UW Extension Plant Pathology Diagnostic Clinic, reports instances of Anthracnose on hostas in Waukesha County as well as Phomopsis canker and root rot in arborvitae, ozone injury to white pine and fire blight in quince.

Reflecting the recent rains, a lot of leaf disease specimens are coming into the clinic. They include many samples of Anthracnose on maples, oaks and ash and a lot of Tubakia leaf spot on oaks.

He reports a significant amount of Taphrina species pathogens that cause problems such as peach leaf curl. Another disease they cause is plum pockets (not to be confused with plum pox) that causes very, very spongy fruits. He has seen infections on branches on the new growth, making them very deformed and spongy.

Oak leaf blister is yet another reported disease caused by Taphrina sp. pathogens. It shows as puckering over a fairly large area of the leaf. In the past, Brian has also seen Taphrina leaf diseases on elm and birch so watch for those.

He reports the first sample of Septoria leaf spot on black eyed Susan.

Chris Williams, UW Department of Entomology, acknowledges that Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is indeed the hot topic since it was discovered in Illinois.

She wants to emphasize an available website — <http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/emeraldashborer/>, that's on the UW-Madison Department of Entomology website. The website is being updated to include EAB look-alikes to help people who think they have EAB—especially because the Japanese beetle is emerging.

Phil Pellitteri, UW Extension Insect Diagnostic Lab, reports a strawberry problem with thrips. It's something new for us but has been a problem documented in Iowa and the northeast and appears to be relatively widespread. Growers say the berries take on a bit of bronze color and are a little on the "seedy" side. The important thing is that the berries apparently do color up and taste just fine, just look a

bit off-color. The feeding is not on the leaves, just on the flowers. You can find more information on the website listed as eastern flower thrip. If you do a search, you'll get a report out of Iowa.

Laura Jull, UW Extension Woody Ornamental Specialist, emphasizes the importance of planting diversity in municipal cities as well as homeowner yards — as highlighted by the Emerald Ash Borer crisis. Plant no more than 30% of an area with trees in a certain family like the maple or oak family, no more than 20% of a genus and no more than 10% of a certain species. She will get this information on the urban horticulture website, <http://www.horticulture.wisc.edu/> and will also list alternative species to plant instead of ash.

Plant Health Advisor Training Updates

Currently active, newly-trained and potential PHAs are all welcome to attend Sharon Morrissey's bi-weekly training updates at the Milwaukee County UWEX office. She will cover current problems and trends being reported, questions you may be asked, etc. **Scheduled meetings are from 6-7 pm on Wednesdays**

**July 12 & 26 August 9 September 13 & 27
October 2 & 4 (wrap up on the 4th)**

Save the date!
Plant Health Field Days
August 3, 2006
Boerner Botanical Gardens
Watch for more details.

You are needed! Remember to call your county offices to volunteer.

Milwaukee County, call 414-290-2410 or 290-2427. (Horticulture Helpline daily from 9-noon; walk-in service 4-6pm on Wednesdays.)

Waukesha County, call 262-548-7768.

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Plant Diagnostic Outreach Opportunities

Plant Health Advisors, both current and newly Trained, are needed to advise—or shadow—at our outreach sites this summer. If you are interested and/or available for any of the following, call Peg Fleury at 414-290-2414 or e-mail peg.fleury@ces.uwex.edu.

Boerner Botanical Gardens Education & Visitor Center Thursdays 3– 6 pm.

PHAs from the Quad Counties staff each week. **Milwaukee County is responsible for the 2nd & 5th Thursday.** Our schedule is:

**June 29 & July 13
August 10 & 31
September 14**

Havenwoods Environmental Center 6141 N Hopkins 2nd Saturday of the month 9 am—noon

July 8 August 12 September 9

Fox Point Farmers Market Stormonth School 7301 W Lombardy Road Last Saturday of the month 8 am—noon

July 29 & August 28

Milwaukee Public Market Water & St. Paul 3rd Saturday of the month 8 am—noon

July 15 & August 19

The Secret Gardens of Wauwatosa Kneeland Walker House Saturday, July 8 10 am—5 pm (2 shifts available)

Need Help?

Don't forget you can access four specialized clinics – The Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic, The Insect Diagnostic Lab, The Soil and Plant Analysis Lab and The Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab. **Clients may go to clinic websites but the following information is for use by Plant Health Advisors and not the general public.**

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The Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic
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1630 Linden Drive
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(608) 262-2863
bdh@plantpath.wisc.edu
plantpath.wisc.edu/pddc

Phil Pellitteri
The Insect Diagnostic Lab
Department of Entomology, UW-Madison
1630 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706
(608) 262-6510
pellitte@entomology.wisc.edu
www.entomology.wisc.edu/entodiag.html

The Soil and Plant Analysis Lab
8452 Mineral Point Road
Verona, WI 53593
(608) 262-4364
uwlabs.soils.wisc.edu

Steve Abler
The Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab
O. J. Noer Turfgrass Facility
3101 Highway M
Verona, WI 53593
(608) 845-2535
swa@plantpath.wisc.edu
www.plantpath.wisc.edu/tddl/tddl/tddl.htm

Other helpful sites:

Japanese Beetle <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort/gardenfacts/X1062.pdf>

Powdery Mildew <http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/pddc/factsheets/PM.doc>

Anthracnose <http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/pddc/factsheets/ANTHASHLC.DOC>

Plum Pockets <http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/pddc/factsheets/PlumPoxLC.pdf>