The Southern Plant Diagnostic Network

WHAT IS SPDN? Southern Plant Diagnostic Network

The SPDN, coordinated by the University of Florida, is one of five regions within the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN).

The mission of the NPDN is to enhance national agricultural biosecurity by assisting with the early detection of exotic, introduced pests and pathogens. This is achieved through a functional nationwide network of primarily public agricultural, Land Grant University (LGU) institutions with a cohesive, distributed system designed to quickly detect and appropriately disseminate information concerning high consequence plant pathogens, arthropods, weeds and other biological pests. The SPDN/NPDN is funded by the USDA, Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (USDA-CSREES).

PEST ALERTS:

The NPDN/SPDN partners with the National IPM Centers, USDA-APHIS, USDA-CREES and the National Plant Board to produce regional and/or national pest alerts: http://www.ncpmc.org/alerts/

See Appendix 8 for a Tospovirus Pest Alert

First Detector Newsletter:

If you would like to receive the newsletter via your email, visit the SPDN website to signup:

http://spdn.ifas.ufl.edu/

Florida-specific information will also be available periodically through the Florida Plant Diagnostic Network (FPDN) website:

http://fpdn.ifas.ufl.edu/

FIRST DETECTOR TRAINING AND RESOURCES:

In order to promote the early detection of exotic pests, the NPDN has a national First Detector training program. A First Detector is anyone would potentially first notice an exotic pest problem in the field and may include Growers, County Extension Agents, Crop Consultants, Agricultural Inspectors, Master Gardeners and others involved in plant management. An effective First Detector should be familiar with 1) the normal appearance of the host and 2) the common insects, diseases, weeds and other pests associated with the host. He/she must also know how to 1) monitor for pests in the crop and 2) submit a sample of an unusual pest to their local diagnostician.

Most First Detector training sessions incorporate special topic information on high-risk pests of concern to a specific crop or geographic region.

Continual updates are provided for training resources available through the NPDN and SPDN by the monthly NPDN ***First Detector Newsletter.***

Various training resources are provided through the NPDN/SPDN website including: fact sheets, pest alerts, videos, powerpoint presentations and other information.

Visit the NPDN website http://www.npdn.org/ and click on the "First Detector Information" for more information. To view NPDN training, you must create an account and register through the NPDN educational site: http://cbc.at.ufl.edu/ .

Figure 1. Damage caused by the Chilli thrips, *Scirtothrips dorsalis*, a potentially significant new invasive species for both tomato and pepper production. Information (including powerpoints, video clips) are available at: http://spdn.ifas.ufl.edu/Chillithrips.htm and on the enclosed Pest alert. Photograph by: Matt Ciomperlik.

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