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Welcome to the first issue of the MSU Diagnostic Services Newsletter. We will be sending the newsletter to you several times a year to provide updates on services and as a way to keep you informed of topics of interest and activities related to diagnostics. We invite your comments on the newsletter and welcome suggestions for topics that may be of interest to you. This and all future issues will be archived at the Diagnostic Services website.

Sincerely,
Ray Hammerschmidt
Plant Pathology Chair and
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Coordinator
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Important Dates



The lab will be closed on the following dates:

12/24-12/25 for Christmas
12/31-01/01 for New Years

Please keep these dates in mind when submitting samples. We want to make sure that samples are not stuck in the mail system during the holidays.

Reminders

 If you haven't visited the Diagnostic Services website lately, www.pestid.msu.edu, please add it to your favorites to make sure your clients have the most current submittal forms and sample submission instructions. The website is updated regularly and includes

features such as "Plant Pest or Problem of the Week" and printable diagnostic factsheets on common insects, nematodes and plant pathogens. There is also a complete list of the lab staff and their contact information.



We also wanted to remind all county offices not to collect money from clients dropping off samples to be submitted to the clinic. Our accounts manager prefers to send out a bill with the sample report. We have found this method of billing to be more efficient for both the lab and the county offices.



Herbicide resistance testing is still being completed in Diagnostic Services. Samples can be collected and sent directly to the lab. We are working jointly with Dr. Christy Sprague in the Crop and Soil Science Department to complete the samples. This service is FREE to Michigan soybean producers. All sample costs are covered by check-off dollars through the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee. Consult the submittal form (on website) for detailed sampling instructions.

News

Starting January 1st, 2010 the lab will be assessing a \$10 fee for all plant identifications. Direct any plant identification questions to Angie Tenney.

We have created a new email for feedback for the newsletter (pestid@msu.edu). We encourage you to send any comments you have on this new venture. We would like to hear about any likes, dislikes, or newsletter suggestions.



Notes from the Diagnosticians

Entomology- Howard Russell



Our warm fall temperatures have kept the bugs active especially those pesky home invading boxelder bugs and Asian lady beetles. Read more about them and what can be done to help keep them out of homes and other structures at:

<http://www.ipmnews.msu.edu/Landscape/Landscape/tabid/92/articleTyinvasive-insects.aspx>

Plant Pathology- Jan Byrne



Corn Ear Rots

Due to the delayed harvest in many areas of Michigan corn ear rot is a concern in some fields. Diagnostic Services can identify the primary fungi present on rotted ears, however, we do not test for mycotoxins. Grain from fields with mold issues should be tested for mycotoxins. There are several labs in Michigan and across the country that provide this service. A list of labs that can quantify mycotoxins in feed is available on the Michigan Dairy Review website (<https://www.msu.edu/user/mdr/>).

Nematology- Fred Warner



Get your HG Type Testing done at MSU

Growers who have experienced poorer growth or yields of soybean cyst nematode (SCN)-resistant varieties than expected, should consider submitting samples for HG Type Testing. HG Type Tests can be conducted at MSU and the cost for a standard test is \$50.00. A gallon of soil infested with SCN should be delivered or mailed to Diagnostic Services. Eight lines of soybeans, 7 resistant and one susceptible will be grown in the presence of the population of SCN provided. Five weeks are required for the nematodes to mature on the plants and then they are counted. The results are used to aid in variety selection. Growers can also customize their own HG Type Tests if desired. If you're interested in learning more about customizing your HG Type Test or just the standard test, please call Fred Warner (517-432-1333).

Important Links

Plant and Soil Nutrient Lab
www.css.msu.edu/SPNL/

Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health
www.animalhealth.msu.edu/

Photo Corner

More than just plants and insects



Fred Warner takes samples from a pallet that was used to ship supplies to China. He was sampling for *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*, pinewood nematode.