Look What's Out There

in

Integrated Pest Management

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http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/

USDA ONE-STOP SOYBEAN RUST WEB SITE

"In response to the costly threat of an invasive plant disease, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has developed a national decision support system that relies heavily on a computer-forecasting service developed by faculty in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

Asian soybean rust, an aggressive fungus capable of inflicting multi-million-dollar losses on the nation's soybean crop, was first found in North America during late 2004 and is expected to spread throughout the soybean growing regions of our country this summer.

The one-stop federal resource, on the Web at http://www.usda.gov/soybeanrust, provides up-to-date forecasts on the location and severity of soybean rust outbreaks in the United States, Caribbean basin and Central America. It offers current surveillance reports, suggests where soybean rust is likely to appear next, offers county-level information on disease status, connects growers to disease-management guidelines developed by county-based extension educators and provides links to other Web sites with information about this potentially devastating plant disease." (Penn State Ag Sciences News, May 6, 2005)

EPA SURVEY ON ASTHMA

"Of the approximately 20 million Americans with asthma, more than six million are children. The disease remains one of the leading causes of emergency room visits and school absenteeism for children. EPA has found that fewer than 30 percent of people with asthma are taking simple steps to reduce exposure to asthma triggers. Exposure to asthma triggers such as secondhand smoke, cockroaches, dust mites, mold, and ozone can cause asthma in young children or set off asthma attacks.

To educate parents of children with asthma, EPA, in partnership with the Ad Council, is releasing a new public awareness media campaign, describing simple steps parents can take to reduce asthma triggers commonly found in homes, daycares, and schools. You may visit EPA's Web site http://www.epa.gov/asthma to find fact sheets, brochures, children's activity books, and educational videos with information about asthma triggers and lessons on asthma management. Also, parents and caregivers can call the No Attacks hotline at (1-866-662-8822) or visit http://www.noattacks.org for additional information on how to prevent asthma attacks." (EPA-News for Release: Tuesday, May 3, 2005 EPA-Contact: John Millett, 202-564-4355).

Agricultural and Environmental News

- Studies Provide Public With Updated Information on CCA-Treated Playground and Decks

"EPA and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) are providing updated information on the effectiveness of sealants and stains in reducing potential exposure to arsenic from chromated copper arsenate (CCA)-treated wood used in residential settings. For homeowners and others who want to reduce their potential arsenic exposure from their decks or other CCA-treated wood structures, new studies show that use, at least once a year, of an oil-or water-based, penetrating sealant or stain can reduce arsenic migrating from the treated wood. The data show that oil- or water-based sealants or stains that can penetrate wood surfaces are preferable to products such as paint, because paints and other film-formers can chip or flake, requiring scraping or sanding for removal, which can increase exposure to arsenic. Consumers should consider the required preparation steps (e.g., sanding, power washing, etc.) before selecting a product to minimize potential exposure to arsenic, both for initial application and re-coating.

This information is based on first-year results from two-year studies initiated by CPSC and EPA in 2003 to determine which stains, sealants and paints are most effective in reducing potential arsenic exposure from existing CCA-treated structures. EPA tested the performance of 12 coatings on older wood and CPSC tested eight coatings (seven were the same as the EPA group) on new (as of August 2003) CCA-treated wood. CCA was a pesticide treatment commonly used in the past to prevent deck and playground wood from rotting and insect damage. Effective Dec. 31, 2003, the use of CCA to treat virtually all wood intended for residential use was eliminated. More information for consumers and the sealant studies are available on EPA's Web site: http://www.epa.gov/oppad001/reregistration/cca/#sealants and on CPSC's Web site: http://www.cpsc.gov/whatsnew.html."
Media Contact: Enesta Jones, 202-564-4355/ jones.enesta@epa.gov
CPSC Media Contact: Scott Wolfson, 301-504-7908. (EPA News: May 11, 2005).

Did You Know That

West Virginia has 21,000 small farms. Approximately 60 to 100 small farms in the state grow tomato for commercial use.

- Area planted for fresh tomato production ranges from 0.5 to 10 acres per farm.
- The average annual tomato production cost during the year 2001 was estimated to be $2,271 per acre.
- The average tomato sale value was estimated to be $5,703 per acre in year 2001.
- Almost all tomatoes planted were harvested for fresh market. Tomatoes were marketed on a wholesale and retail basis.
- The majority of the tomato acreage is located in the western and southwestern regions of West Virginia (Jackson, Roane, Putnam, Mason, and Kanawha counties). Tomatoes also are produced to a smaller degree in Marion, Mineral, and Taylor counties and others throughout the state.

July 21, 2005
NACAA Annual Meeting, Buffalo, NY, NPDN First Detector Educator Training. For more information about the First Detector Educator Training at the 2005 NACAA meeting, please contact Mary McKellar, NEPDN Education and Training Coordinator, 607-255-4162 or mem40@cornell.edu.

July 30 - August 3, 2005
American Phytopathological Society (APS) Annual Meeting, Austin, Texas

October 5-7, 2005
Northeast Division APS Meeting, Geneva, NY

November 6-9, 2005
ESA Annual Meeting, Fort Lauderdale, FL

November 15-16, 2005
APS Soybean Rust Symposium, Nashville, TN