

Look What's Out There

in

Integrated Pest Management

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Gypsy Moth Program to Begin

Aerial treatments to suppress gypsy moth populations in the state will cover more than 64,700 acres and will begin around the first week of May, depending on weather conditions and the progress of egg mass hatching and larval development, according to West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture Gus R. Douglass. The gypsy moth is the most destructive of West Virginia's forest pests, each year defoliating tens of thousands of acres of West Virginia's valuable hardwoods. The damage makes trees more susceptible to other pests and diseases, and can kill trees outright. Residents should not be alarmed by low-flying airplanes in treatment areas, Commissioner Douglass added. Parts of Berkeley, Grant, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Monroe and Morgan counties are slated for treatments, which will likely operate out of Riverside Airpark, LLC, at Berkeley Springs, Cumberland Airport at Wiley Ford and Greenbrier Valley Airport near Lewisburg. The program will treat 54,394 acres with Dimilin 4L and 10,381 acres with *Bacillus thuringiensis var karstaki* (Btk). Both chemicals are safe to humans and the environment and have been used for decades. The Cooperative State-County-Landowner Program is a joint effort among the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (USDA-FS), the West Virginia Division of Forestry and landowners throughout the Mountain State. To reach flight operations, call 304-813-9625

(Cumberland) or 304-552-6169 (Greenbrier Valley). For more information about gypsy moth programs, call Plant Industries' Director Gary Gibson or Assistant Director Clark Haynes at 304-558-2212, or Program Manager Butch Sayers at 304-788-1066 (New Creek Office).

(WV Department of Agriculture April 2008)

Managing Weeds With Out Herbicides

While weed management in many instances still involves application of herbicides, other management methods are certainly well known historically (tillage, competition, crop rotation). However, a contemporary, comprehensive reference dwelling on more advanced non-herbicide tactics heretofore has been missing, say M.K. Upadhyaya and R.E. Blackshaw, editors of the 2007 volume, *NON-CHEMICAL WEED MANAGEMENT, Principles, Concepts and Technology*, a hardbound monograph intended to fill the void. An international invitation to fellow weed scientists produced a 12-chapter, 249-page work ranging across topics such as soil solarization, mulching, biocontrol, bioherbicides, cultivation, allelopathy, use of cover crops, and related strategies. In a concluding chapter the editors address integrated weed management (i.e., IPM for weeds) by noting that a sound weed management plan should "combine a variety of weed management options," especially to forestall emergence of weeds adapting to any single management practice. The book helps flesh out and re-

emphasizes the effectiveness and rationale for an integrated approach to weed management. To get the book go to <http://www.cabi.org> or write or call:

Customer Service, CABI,
Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 8DE, UK.
orders@cabi.org
Fax: 44-1491-829292
Phone: 44-1491-829400

(Oregon State University IPMnet News April 2008)

Green Pest Control Companies on the Rise

Simple household products such as detergent water, vacuum cleaners, and door sweeps are the weapons on the front lines of "green" pest control. Eco-savvy consumers are starting to realize they no longer need to rely on traditional pesticides to combat rodents and insects. Environmentally friendly exterminating services employing integrated pest management (IPM) techniques to combat household pests are popping up across the nation. The companies, who mostly work with commercial clients, say the demand for their services is on the rise. "Traditional pest control companies run around spraying pesticides," said Joel Sklar, vice president of sales at Assured Environments, a New York integrated pest management company. "We're using glue traps to find out where there are animals and pests ... and we seal holes and areas to prevent them from getting in." Instead of using chemicals, these pest control companies investigate how and why pests infiltrate a building and rely on detergent water, vacuum cleaners, and low or no-toxicity products to fight the problem. "Probably the best product out there is a door sweep," said Tom Green, president of the Integrated Pest Management Institute North America, Inc., in Wisconsin, referring to the vinyl strips installed on the bottoms of doors. The institute certifies green exterminating companies. "A mouse can squeeze through a hole the size of a pencil diameter. So if you've got a quarter-inch gap underneath your door, as far as a mouse is concerned, there's no door there at all." This

trend in the pest control industry has increased in recent years. About two-thirds of the 378 exterminating companies that responded to a survey by Pest Control Technology magazine last year, claimed to offer some sort of integrated pest management services. "It's a better approach to pest control for the health of the home, the environment and the family," said Cindy Mannes, a spokeswoman for the National Pest Management Association, the trade organization of the \$6.3 billion exterminating industry. Mannes says most consumers are not aware these services even exist and she cautions that each of the approximately 18,000 U.S. pest control companies may define IPM services differently. A customer can also expect to pay more for this "Green" service. A typical \$75 exterminator's visit to a four-bedroom home can cost clients 10 to 20 percent more if they choose greener IPM services, which are more labor intensive, according to Sklar. Green pest control products are also in demand. "Natural pest controls are the fastest growing part of our business," said Eric Vinje, owner of Planet Natural, an online and catalog-based organic gardening supply business based in Montana. "A lot of the ingredients in these products are everyday ingredients, like mint oil or orange peel." His most popular products include Orange Guard, which suffocates insects, and Diatomaceous Earth, made from skeletal remains of plants that can cut through insects' protective shells and kill them. He also recommended boric acid-based products, like Terra Ant Killer. "It acts as a stomach poison to insects," Vinje said. But "for us, it's about as toxic as table salt." Vinje also provides clients with more unusual solutions. Last October, for instance, his company sent more than 720,000 ladybugs to two Manhattan apartment complexes where the landscaping was being decimated by aphids and mites. The red-and-black bugs were unleashed on the 80-acre grounds to eat the pests. "We were looking for different ways for the property to be a little greener," said Glenn Mahoney, senior director of the properties. "It's been very effective. We're happy with the results." Research has shown that cockroach and rodent infestations can pose health risks, with children

who live in poorly maintained, low-income housing particularly susceptible. "Their airways and lungs are still developing," said Anhthu Hoang, a former biologist and general counsel at We Act for Environmental Justice, an environmental justice organization in West Harlem. "They tend to be lower on the ground." Hoang gave some examples of the health risks: Roach wings and excrement "dry up and create an asthma trigger" when they get into the air, and chemicals and sprays can sometimes exacerbate the problem. Green, whose organization certifies green exterminating companies, says there are always going to be situations where a pesticide is needed. But he also believes the demand for natural pest management services and products is growing. "The pesticide manufacturing industry has really worked hard over the last 10 years to bring new products to market that are much less toxic," he said. "We're making a lot of progress."

(By Clare Trapasso, Associated Press April 2008)

Educational Seminar for Extension Specialists: Insect Resistant Management Recommendations

Corn producers face a critical decision this spring: whether they fully comply with Insect Resistant Management recommendations that will help prevent insects from becoming resistant to today's Bt traits. DTN and the National Corn Growers Association would like to invite you to a special web seminar training session on Friday, May 2, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. CDT. The seminar is designed for extension personnel that will address Bt resistance issues. In 2007, the number of acres planted to Bt hybrids rose greatly, and that acreage is expected to increase more this year. At the same time, compliance with non-BT refuge requirements has been falling, from a high of 95 percent compliance in 2003 down to near 80 percent in 2007. Farmers, pressed both for planting time given the general lateness of the season and wanting to maximize profits on each corn acre, may be tempted to ignore refuge acre recommendations this spring. The National Corn Growers Association is

developing a series of training and educational materials specifically for Extension personnel and corn growers to spread awareness of issues facing farmers this spring, and to preview some of those educational materials that will be available soon. Presenters will include Kevin Steffey, Extension entomologist at the University of Illinois; Martin Barbre, chairman of the National Corn Growers Association; and Nick Storer, chairman of the Agricultural Biotechnology Stewardship Technical Committee, and Global Science Policy Leader, Biotechnology Regulatory Affairs for Dow AgroSciences and the web seminar will be moderated by DTN Production Editor, Greg Horstmeier. Topics of discussion include the issue of corn insect resistance management and the federal IRM guidelines since their inception in the early 1990s, NCGA's new educational efforts in insect resistance management, and the latest efforts of seed companies to promote refuge requirements. For more information go to:

http://www.dtn.com/emailers/ag/2k8/DTN_Insect_Mngmt_0408/.

EPA Orders Scotts to Stop Selling Certain Pesticides

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 today issued a "stop sale, use or removal" order against Scotts Miracle Gro Co. and three affiliates, all of Marysville, Ohio, for illegal, unregistered and misbranded pesticides. EPA will also issue a stop sale order to Scotts Lawn Care Service. Scotts has agreed to recall these products from all retail locations across the United States and to set up a process for consumers to safely return any unregistered products they may have purchased. An EPA consumer hotline to answer questions about the action has been established at 888-838-1304 (9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m, Central Daylight Time). Questions may also be answered by the National Pesticide Information Center at 800-858-7378 (6:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Pacific Daylight Time, including weekends). A fact sheet and regularly updated information are posted online at <http://www.epa.gov/reg5rcra/ptb/news/>. At this

time the risks, if any, posed by these unregistered products are unknown. EPA and its state partner Ohio Department of Agriculture are conducting a laboratory analysis of these products. Updated information will be posted online when it becomes available. Until EPA has more information about the contents of these products, consumers are advised not to use these products and to store them in a safe, cool and dry place such as a garage or utility shed. Do not dispose of them down the drain, in the garbage or at a community disposal site. EPA ordered the companies, collectively an international producer and distributor of lawn care products, to immediately stop selling and distributing two products which can be identified by the invalid "EPA registration number" listed on the package. Invalid registration number 62355-4 is marketed under names including "Garden Weed Preventer + Plant Food" and "Miracle Gro Shake 'n' Feed All Purpose Plant Food Plus Weed Preventer." Invalid registration number 538-304 is used primarily by Scotts Lawn Service, a lawn care company. It is marketed under names including "Scotts Lawn Service Fertilizer with .28% Halts," "Scotts Lawn Service Fertilizer 0-0-7 Plus .28% Halts Pro," "Scotts Lawn Service Fertilizer 14-2-5 Plus .28% Halts Pro" and "Scotts Lawn Service Fertilizer 22-0-8 Plus .28% Halts Pro." In an effort to make sure these products are immediately removed from the marketplace, EPA will also issue stop sale orders to major retailers that carry these products. Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, all pesticides must be submitted to EPA for review, evaluation and registration to ensure that they do not pose an unreasonable risk to human health or the environment. EPA's review and registration process is internationally recognized. Pesticide products that have not undergone EPA review may pose risks to human health and the environment. "A manufacturer such as Scotts cannot ignore the important legal requirement of registering its pesticides," said Region 5 Administrator Mary A. Gade. "This is a serious violation of EPA's system for protecting people and the environment from the potential harmful effects of pesticides. EPA will fully investigate this violation and take appropriate

actions. We are committed to keeping the public informed about any health consequences and providing information to assure the safe recall of these products as soon as possible." Contact Information: Mick Hans, 312-353-5050, hans.mick@epa.gov, Karen Thompson, 312-353-8547, thompson.karen@epa.gov, or Rafael P. Gonzalez, 312-886-0269, gonzalez.rafaelp@epa.gov. For more information on pesticides, go to <http://www.epa.gov/reg5rcra/ptb/pest>.

(EPA April 2008)

NEW! Online First Detector Training

The National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) is pleased to announce that the Online First Detector Training modules are up and running and can be found at: <http://cbc.at.ufl.edu/>. The site allows anyone to participate in the First Detector Program. The course is composed of several modules, and includes topics such as:

- The NPDN Mission
- Agricultural Biosecurity
- Purpose of a First Detector
- Monitoring for Exotic Pests
- How to Submit a Suspicious Sample
- The Art and Science of Plant Pest Diagnostics
- And more....

Each module takes anywhere from 40 to 60 minutes and the course can be completed at your own pace. To get started, first register for the First Detector Training Workshops to get your user name and password.

The general goal of the program is to get the public involved in protecting our plant related industries and our natural plant resources from being impacted by exotic and potentially damaging plant pests be they insects, weeds or pathogens. Upon completion of the training, First Detectors receive a certificate of training completion. Trained First Detectors are also provided with the opportunity to receive the national NPDN First Detector newsletter as well

as pest alerts via e-mail through the National First Detector registry. For more information, go to <http://cbc.at.ufl.edu/> or contact Dr. John Baniecki at: John.Baniecki@mail.wvu.edu.

Did You Know That



A way to minimize pest and disease problems in your garden is to plant a wide range of plant material. Even if your garden is small—a few tomato plants, some peppers and beans—you can tuck in a marigold here, some sweet alyssum there, and add an herb or two, maybe basil or dill. Your little garden will look much more interesting and will also be far more attractive to beneficial insects which will reward you by helping to control pests.

Events



June 21 & 27, and Sept. 20, 2008

Christmas tree workshops for new growers will be held at Glengary Christmas Tree Farm in Amissville, VA. This workshop is open to the public and is an annual event held by the Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association. For more information, go to: http://www.vaipm.org/fm/2008_Christmas_Workshop_Agenda_Registration_Form.pdf

May 27-30, 2008

The 2008 Weeds Across Borders conference will be held in Banff, Alberta, Canada. For more information go to:

<http://www.nawma.org/documents/2008%20WAB/WAB%20announcement-english.pdf>

June 19, 2008, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

The Green Pest Management Summit

The Armory, site of the US Track & Field Hall of Fame, 216 Fort Washington Avenue (168 - 169 St), New York City. For more information: <http://sites.securemgr.com/folder9374/index.cfm?id=98253&fuseaction=browse&pageid=40>

September 22 - 26, 2008

16th Ornamental Workshop on Diseases and Insects, Kanuga Conference Center,

Hendersonville, NC. For more information:

<http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/plantpath/activities/societies/ornamental/index.html>

Comments or Questions?

If you have any comments or questions regarding any of the material presented, please let us know by sending an e-mail to:

John.Baniecki@mail.wvu.edu.