

# NPDN Training and Education

Amanda Hodges<sup>1</sup>, Robert McGovern<sup>2</sup>, Tim Momol<sup>3</sup>, Mary McKellar<sup>4</sup>, Gail Ruhl<sup>5</sup>, Gerald Holmes<sup>6</sup>, Steven Cain<sup>7</sup>, Will Lanier<sup>8</sup>, Nina Zidack<sup>8</sup>, Richard Hoenisch<sup>9</sup>

## Abstract

The NPDN Training and Education Subcommittee initiated a nationwide program for First Detectors (FDs) in the fall of 2003. These individuals include anyone who is in a position to notice an unusual plant pest outbreak and trained to report unusual pest activity to the network's diagnostic labs. Guidelines and policies for FD training are continually updated and communicated by the subcommittee through the First Detector Educator Training Manual. Over 12,000 FDs have received training using the six core modules and training manual and over 5,000 are included in a national FD registry. Registered FDs receive the national FD newsletter and pest alert information. Special topic training sessions have also been conducted on primarily high-risk plant diseases and arthropods of interest, such as Soybean Rust, Sudden Oak Death, and Pink Hibiscus Mealybug. Increasing the availability and quantity of information accessible on the internet to all potential FDs and extension educators has been the most recent emphasis of the subcommittee. Six core training modules and several special topic modules are now available on the First Detector Information Page of the NPDN website <http://www.npdn.org/>. In addition to increasing availability of training materials, online testing and learning options will be built into the program during 2007 at <http://cbc.at.ufl.edu/>.

*Membership in the NPDN Training and Education Subcommittee continues to rotate, expand, and evolve to ensure adequate representation from each region as well as representatives from county extension agents, certified crop advisors, USDA-CSREES, and the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN).*

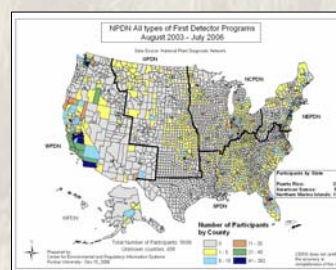
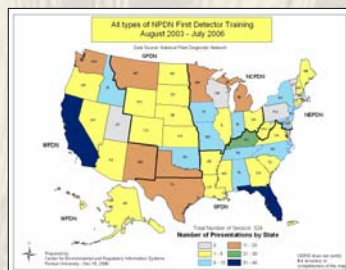
<sup>1</sup>SPDN, University of Florida, Entomology and Nematology Department, Gainesville, FL  
<sup>2</sup>SPDN, University of Florida, Department of Plant Pathology, Gainesville, FL  
<sup>3</sup>SPDN, University of Florida, NFREC, Department of Plant Pathology, Quincy, FL  
<sup>4</sup>NEPDN, Cornell University, Department of Plant Pathology, Ithaca, NY  
<sup>5</sup>Purdue University, Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, West Lafayette, IN  
<sup>6</sup>North Carolina State University, Department of Plant Pathology, Raleigh, NC  
<sup>7</sup>Purdue University, EDEN, West Lafayette, IN  
<sup>8</sup>Montana State University, Department of Animal and Range Science, Bozeman, MT  
<sup>9</sup>WPDPN, University of California-Davis, Davis, CA

**Acknowledgments:**  
 •We thank all of the members of NPDN for their continued efforts to train First Detectors.  
 •We thank Cindy Richardson-Decker, NCSU and member of the Training and Education Subcommittee for review comments.

## Who are First Detectors?

- County Extension Agents
- Crop Consultants or Advisors
- Growers
- Master Gardeners
- Anyone involved in pest management
- Over 5,000 registered FDs nationwide!

## Registered FDs receive pest alerts and the NPDN FD newsletter



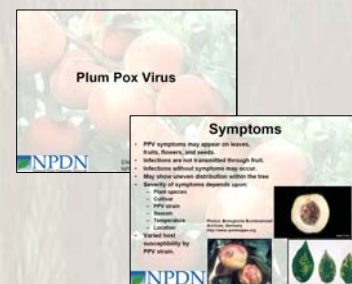
## How Do We Train?

- Program Updates continually provided on the NPDN's First Detector Information page (located on the NPDN portal Homepage <http://www.npdn.org/>)
- Training Guidelines and Information for Educators updated in the First Detector Educator Training Manual
- Online registration of session and participant data available 2004, and revised 2006



## Special Topic Training Modules

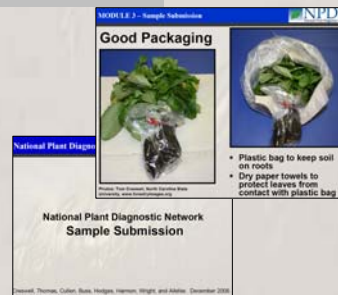
- Developed based on regional/national pest list priorities.
- Author initiated submissions also encouraged.
- 10-15 available, October 2006-February 2007 on the FD Information page.



## Core Training Modules

Available on the WWW (FD Information Page), December 2006

- Module 1: Mission of the NPDN and Agricultural Biosecurity
- Module 2: Monitoring for High Risk Pests
- Module 3: Quality and Secure Sample Submission
- Module 4: Art and Science of Diagnosis: Arthropods and Plant Pathogens
- Module 5: Response Exercise Scenarios
- Module 6: Effective Photos for Digital Sample Submission



## Future Plans

- Continue with new module development.
- Conduct more special topic and crop-focused training sessions.
- Interface with IT and website subcommittees to enhance website features for modules.
- Continue to improve maintenance and troubleshooting of training and participant registration.
- Utilize more online testing and data reporting features.
- Conduct post-workshop surveys of FD's in order to improve training.