

# Look What's Out There

in

## Integrated Pest Management

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

### **Chrysanthemum White Rust in Pennsylvania**

On September 15, 2006, during a routine Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS), a Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) inspector detected Chrysanthemum White Rust (CWR) symptoms in seven potted Chrysanthemum plants out of a lot of 302 Chrysanthemums at a large national retailer in Pittsburgh. This detection was confirmed by Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) as Chrysanthemum White Rust, caused by the obligate fungus, *Puccinia horiana* P. Henn. PDA has issued a stop sale order and PPQ issued an Emergency Action Notification (EAN) to prevent sale of infected plants. These infected potted plants were from a farming operation in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, where CWR was discovered in a single block at one end of a ten acre field. The National CWR Management Plan for Exclusion and Eradication is being implemented. The plan includes destruction of infected plants and those within one meter, spraying remaining plants three times with an approved systemic fungicide, and monitoring the plants for symptoms. There are several greenhouses and a three acre field that are physically isolated from the infested field that have been inspected and found to be apparently free of CWR. The plants in the three-acre field were sprayed with myclobutanil as a precaution, and then released. CWR was also confirmed in Chrysanthemums located in the garden center of

a second national retailer in Pennsylvania. Trace forward and trace backward activities are being expedited to determine the full extent of exposure of Chrysanthemums in the United States, especially because this is the peak season for Chrysanthemum sales. CWR, caused by the fungus *Puccinia horiana* P. Henn., is a quarantine pest for the United States. The importation of CWR host plants is prohibited from infested countries and regions due to the potential of this organism to be transported with the host plants. When CWR is found in the United States, the States and PPQ cooperate to eradicate it. Disposal of infected plants and weekly fungicide sprays of myclobutanil are required to manage this disease as outlined in the CWR Management Plan for Exclusion and Eradication. To date, CWR has been confirmed in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, and British Colombia, Canada. Additional information on CWR may be found at the PPQ website, <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/cwr/index.html>.

(NAPPO September 2007)

### **Deregulation of Genetically Engineered Soybean Public Comment Request**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is seeking public comment on a petition to deregulate

soybean line 356043, genetically engineered (GE) for herbicide resistance. The petition for deregulation, submitted by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., is in accordance with APHIS' regulations concerning the introduction of GE organisms and products. APHIS has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) to determine whether deregulating the soybean could have a significant impact on the environment. After a thorough review of the scientific evidence, APHIS' current preferred action is to deregulate the soybean based on the fact that it does not present a plant-pest risk. If APHIS grants the petition for deregulation, the soybean and its progeny would no longer be regulated articles. The product could then be freely moved and planted without the requirement of permits or other regulatory oversight by APHIS.

Soybean line 356043 is engineered to be resistant to the herbicide glyphosate, marketed under brand names such as Roundup, Touchdown and Kleenup; and to acetolactate synthase-inhibiting herbicides, marketed under brand names such as Pursuit, Glean and Oust. Pioneer has also submitted documents to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in accordance with their regulations.

Notice of this action was published in the Oct. 5 Federal Register. APHIS is seeking comments on the petition and invites comments on the EA. Consideration will be given to comments received on or before Dec. 4. Send an original and three copies of postal mail or commercial delivery comments to Docket No. APHIS-2007-0019, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, Md. 20737-1238. If you wish to submit a comment using the Internet, go to the Federal eRulemaking portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>, select "Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service" from the agency drop-down menu; then click on "Submit." In the Docket ID column, select APHIS-2007-0019 to submit or view public comments and to view

supporting and related materials available electronically. Comments are posted on the Regulations.gov Web site and may also be viewed at USDA, Room 1141, South Building, 14th St. and Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Please call (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

(USDA APHIS October 2007)

### **New Strategy for Controlling *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum***

Scientists at North Dakota State University (NDSU) have found a fungus that can aid in the control of the fungal plant pathogen, *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*. This fungus affects sunflower, soybean, canola and dry edible bean crops and outbreaks cost about \$242 million annually in yield losses and diminished quality. Management of this pathogen is difficult because it forms a hard, protective casing, called sclerotia, in order to survive unfavorable soil conditions. This reduces the effectiveness of fungicide treatments, crop rotation and other control measures. But these seemingly impenetrable sclerotia are no match for *Coniothyrium minitans*, a mycoparasite that penetrates the fungus' casings to feed. A mycoparasite is a parasitic fungus whose host is another fungus. Now, thanks to the National Sclerotinia Initiative (NSI), a multiorganizational effort led by the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), *C. minitans* could prove a useful ally to growers in their fight against *S. sclerotiorum*. The studies from NDSU show that the mycoparasite can diminish the severity of Sclerotinia infection by destroying the sclerotia before the fungus germinates. But no single control is likely to become the "magic bullet" against *S. sclerotiorum*, which attacks more than 400 species of plants. That's why NSI scientists are exploring other strategies as well. Since 2002, NSI scientists have conducted their research with four objectives in mind: develop new, disease-resistant varieties; learn more about *S. sclerotiorum*'s growth and biology; decipher

its genomic secrets and disease epidemiology; and develop new diagnostic tools and disease management strategies to better protect vulnerable crops.

*(By Jan Suszkiw, USDA ARS October 2007)*

## Agricultural and Environmental News

### **EPA Seeks Comment on StarLink White Paper**

EPA is seeking public comment on a draft White Paper that recommends withdrawal of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's guidance to test for the StarLink protein Cry9C in corn grain. StarLink is a biotechnology-derived variety of insect-resistant corn. It was approved by EPA for animal feed and industrial uses but not for human consumption because of unresolved questions that it could be a potential allergen. However, there is no scientific evidence linking StarLink to allergic reactions.

The registrant voluntarily cancelled its registration in 2000 when StarLink corn was detected in human food, since its presence in food rendered the food adulterated and therefore not fit for human consumption. At that time, as part of a broad effort to remove any remaining StarLink from the human food supply, FDA recommended that the milling industry establish a comprehensive program to test all yellow corn. EPA's White Paper analyzes seven years of testing data and concludes that continued testing of corn provides no added protection for human health.

In 2006, 99.99% of more than 412 million bushels of corn tested negative for the StarLink protein Cry9C. The analysis shows that, after seven years, StarLink has been virtually removed from the U.S. food supply. For additional information, please visit:  
[http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/biopesticides/pips/starlink\\_corn.htm](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/biopesticides/pips/starlink_corn.htm)

*(EPA October 2007)*

### **EPA Issues One-Year Registration for Soil Fumigant Iodomethane**

EPA has approved a one-year registration of iodomethane (methyl iodide) under highly restrictive provisions governing its use. Iodomethane can serve as an alternative to ozone-depleting pesticide methyl bromide. The risk assessment process for iodomethane has been one of the most thorough analyses ever conducted on a new pesticide. It has incorporated state-of-the-art methods and extensive chemical-specific toxicology and exposure data. The agency's assessment carefully evaluated the potential for cancer and special sensitivities to the most vulnerable populations. The agency also paid particular attention to potential exposures of those who live, work, or spend time in areas near fields where iodomethane might be used.

The risk-assessment techniques, protocols governing generation of toxicology studies, and exposure evaluation methods used to support the evaluation of iodomethane have been peer-reviewed by agency scientists, the independent Scientific Advisory Panel or both. By using a thorough evaluation process the agency concluded that there are adequate safety margins and the registration of iodomethane does not pose significant risks.

On September 25, EPA received a letter signed by 54 scientists who oppose the registration of iodomethane as a soil fumigant, citing potential human health and environmental concerns, and requested additional peer review. EPA has discussed our assessment with some of the signatories and sent a letter to inform the scientists of the rigorous science used to support EPA's decision.

Iodomethane can be used as a pre-plant soil fumigant to control plant pathogens, nematodes, insects, and weeds on strawberries, tomatoes, peppers, ornamentals, turf, trees, and vines. More information on iodomethane is available on EPA's Web site at

[http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/iodomethane\\_fs.htm](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/iodomethane_fs.htm).

(EPA October 2007)

### Funding Opportunity

- **Expansion of the Integrated Pest Management Pest Information Platform for Education and Extension.** The IPM PIPE Steering Committee is pleased to announce the release of a Request for Proposals to support expansion of the IPM PIPE into new crop/pest complexes. The RFA is titled "Expansion of the Integrated Pest Management Pest Information Platform for Education and Extension (IPM PIPE) to Address New Crop/Pest Complexes of Importance to U.S. Agriculture -- 2008 and can be found at <http://www.ipmpipe.org/pmcprojects/ListRFAs.cfm>. It is available in three formats (HTML, PDF, and Word). The proposal submission process is electronic and instructions are located at <http://www.ipmpipe.org/pmcprojects/PIAccess/index.cfm>. Interested parties do not have to register in order to see and download the RFP but they will have to register to submit the proposal. Details for registration and proposal submission are described on the website. Details of the submission process and proposal format are described in section VI of the RFP, Proposal Preparation. Electronic versions of the proposals must be received by 5:00 pm December 7, 2007. In addition, one signed, paper copy of the complete proposal must be received by the grants manager, John Ayers, no later than 5:00 pm December 14, 2007 (See section VII of the RFP). Proposals are invited from qualified public and private entities. Eligible applicants include colleges and universities, Federal, State, and local agencies, Native American tribal organizations, non-profit and for-profit private organizations or corporations, and other entities. Individuals are not eligible applicants. Although an

applicant may be eligible to compete for an award based on its status as an eligible entity, other factors may exclude an applicant from receiving Federal assistance under this program (e.g. debarment and suspension; a determination of non-performance on a prior contract, cooperative agreement, grant or partnership; or a determination of a violation of applicable ethical standards). For more information contact:

Jim VanKirk  
Email: [jim@sripmc.org](mailto:jim@sripmc.org)  
Phone: 919-513-8179  
<http://www.ipmpipe.org>

## Did You Know That



It's getting cold outside, and pests find a warm house a cozy place to stay during the winter months. Anything from mice and bats to insects can enter a home if precautions aren't taken. Seal up cracks in walls, siding, roof, and around windows and doors to prevent entry of these unwanted visitors. It may also help with the heating bill.

## Events



**December 11, 2007**

**Colony Collapse Disorder in Honey Bees: Insight into Status, Potential Causes, and Preventive Measures** at 55th Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America to be held in San Diego, December 9-12.

**January 7-11, 2008**

**Advanced Landscape Plant IPM PHC Short Course** will be held in the Entomology Department, on the University of Maryland campus in College Park Maryland. For more information, go to:  
<http://www.raupplab.umd.edu/conferences/AdvLandscape/index.html>

**February 10-13 2008**

**International Plant Resistance to Insects Workshop**, Fort Collins, CO. For more information contact Frank Peairs by sending an email to [Frank.Peairs@colostate.edu](mailto:Frank.Peairs@colostate.edu) or by phone at 1-970-491-5945.

**February 11-15 2008**

**4th Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Symposium** Harford, CT. For more information send an email to [DSouto@fs.fed.us](mailto:DSouto@fs.fed.us) or call 1-603-868-7717.

**February 24-27, 2008**

**Pesticide Stewardship Alliance Conference** Asheville, North Carolina. For more information go to:  
<http://tpsalliance.org/conference/Introduction.htm>

**March 25-27, 2008**

**Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) 20th Anniversary Conference: The New American Farm: Advancing the frontier of sustainable agriculture.** Kansas City, Missouri. Send your name and complete postal address to [outreach@sare.org](mailto:outreach@sare.org) to receive registration materials in January 2008

**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](mailto:John.Baniecki@mail.wvu.edu). Thank you.