



# Dispersal Notes



October 2015 News flyer

## Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology Iowa State University

### Announcements

Happy October everyone! Thank you for reading this month's news flyer. It is really fun to see updates from everyone in the department. If you have a story, news, or photos that you feel should go in the newsletter, please email the newsletter editor ([aqbeeman@iastate.edu](mailto:aqbeeman@iastate.edu)). We are looking for longer story ideas for the semester newsletter that will be out in December, so feel free to send any and all ideas for that as well.

### Calendar

- 10/6 : PLPM Seminar, Dr. Matt Bakker, USDA-ARS National Laboratory for Agriculture and Environment – “Plant-microbe interactions in sustainable agriculture”.
- 10/9: “Campus Dissemination” – Graduate student lunch organized by the GSO. Meet outside loading dock of Bessey at 12 pm for lunch in Campustown.
- 10/13: Seminar, Dr. Forrest Nutter – “Ebola virus epidemiology”.
- 10/20: PLPM Seminar, Dr. Shinyi Marzano, University of Illinois – “Unlocking the potential of biocontrol within the phytobiome: Case studies exploring soybean microbiome and fungal viromes”.
- 10/27: PLPM Seminar, Dr. Juliette Doumayrou, Postdoc in Miller Lab, “Determination of the structural components of the PEMV that participate in interaction with the aphid receptor and affect virus transmission”.

### Recent Publications

Gougherty, A.V., Pazdernik, K.T., Kaiser, M.S., **Nutter, F.W.** 2015. Evaluation of sampling and testing efficiencies of Plum pox virus eradication programs in Pennsylvania and Ontario. *Plant Disease* 99: 1247-1253.

### Stories

#### Alison Robertson discusses corn disease on KCCI

Dr. Alison Robertson, an associate professor and extension field pathologist in the department, was recently featured on the Des Moines news station KCCI to discuss newly confirmed cases of the corn disease tar spot in the Midwest. The disease is caused by a fungus, *Phyllachora maydis*, and is commonly found in Latin America. To learn more about tar spot and to see Alison's interview, please go to: <http://www.kcci.com/news/first-confirmation-of-this-corn-disease-reported-in-midwest/35572422>.



Alison Robertson

#### Mark Gleason speaks at Career Development Workshop

Dr. Mark Gleason, a professor in the department, recently spoke at a career development workshop for graduate students. His talk was titled, “Improving your professional speaking skills: who cares?”. Mark also co-teaches (with Dr. Leonor Leandro) PLP 628X, a graduate course on professional speaking that is offered every Fall semester.



Mark Gleason

#### Department members community garden

By: Augustine Beeman

One of great things about living in Ames are the well-maintained community gardens administered by the city. A 10' x 40' garden plot rents for \$25 for the season starting around April 15<sup>th</sup> every year. Having the city till your garden plot in the early spring is an additional \$15. Ambitious gardeners can even rent out extra plots depending on the space available in a particular year. This season, several members of the department grew plentiful amounts of fruits and vegetables in these gardens located on South Maple & 4<sup>th</sup> St. near Squaw Creek. The group had much success in producing fruits and vegetables as well as observing plenty of plant diseases. Xavier Phillips, a Master's student in Daren Mueller's lab, saw plenty of disease in his garden plot. “The biggest issue came from spotted and striped cucumber beetles that transmitted bacterial wilt to all of my cucumber plants”, said Phillips, who only managed to get a few cucumbers after much effort. Despite this, Phillips and his wife were able to grow plentiful amounts of produce, including beans, tomatoes, squash and peppers. After dealing with hordes of deer, weeds and diseases, Caroline Wuest, a Master's student in Tom Harrington's lab, was also able to grow plentiful amounts of tomatoes, kale, and basil. The garden has some disadvantages, however. Ed Zaworski, an extension program specialist in the Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic, had a few close encounters with a neighbor's aggressive runaway dog that plagued the garden for a few days. Personally, I found both successes and failures in my garden plot this year, ranging from my healthy potato plot (150+ lbs harvested!), to a total loss in my popcorn plot due to northern corn leaf blight and wind. If growing your own veggies and observing a diverse number of plant diseases interests you, please go to the City of Ames' website for more information: <http://www.cityofames.org/>.



The Phillips' double-plot garden



A wide variety of veggies produced by the Phillips'



Caroline Wuest's delicious tomatoes on the vine



Our garden plot, before the northern corn leaf blight

### Snapshots



Dr. Lina Rodriguez-Salamanca, an extension program specialist in the Plant and Insect Diagnostic Lab, giving a seminar on September 22<sup>nd</sup> on her PhD research.



Stith Wiggs, a research associate in Daren Mueller's lab, harvesting soybeans in research plots this September.

## Diagnose it!

Prepared by: Ed Zaworski

Last month's answer was Botrytis neck rot, which was diagnosed by Chelsea Harbach. She won 5 lbs of garden fresh potatoes. Below is a description of a plant disease. If you think you have a diagnosis, please send the newsletter editor an email ([aqbeeman@iastate.edu](mailto:aqbeeman@iastate.edu)) with the subject line “Diagnosis!”.

Host: Oak Tree

Symptoms: Purple/brown lesions observed along the leaf veins.

Key Hint: Some dead leaves may remain attached to the tree throughout the winter.

