ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tobacco
• Take time now to get ready for the 2006 season
• Pyrethroid resistant corn earworms in midwest

Shade Trees & Ornamentals
• Winter landscape maintenance and pest management learning opportunities

2006 KPN BEGINS

This is the first issue of the Kentucky Pest News for 2006. Subsequent issues will be published on alternate weeks from now until weekly distribution resumes in about mid-March. A hard copy of this newsletter can be received but it is sent as bulk mail so perishable information may not reach you in the most timely manner. However, the newsletter is posted on the web at http://www.uky.edu/Ag/kpn/kpnhome.htm, or you can subscribe to receive an electronic version as follows: send an e-mail from your account: listserv@lsp.uky.edu Place anything you wish in the Subject line. The content of the message should be: subscribe ky-pestnews followed by a blank line. If all goes well, you will receive confirmation of your subscription by a return e-mail message.

AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR WORKSHOP SCHEDULED

The 2006 Agricultural Pesticide Applicator Workshop will be held February 14 at the Executive Inn in Louisville. The meeting, sponsored by the Agribusiness Association of Kentucky and the UK Pesticide Safety Education and Integrated Pest Management programs, will begin at 9 am and end at 4:30 pm local time. The agenda has been submitted for CEU credits for Certified Crop Advisors and certified commercial pesticide applicators. There is a registration fee. Contact the Agribusiness Association at (502) 226-1122 for more information.

2006 PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TESTING LOCATIONS ESTABLISHED

Certification testing for pesticide applicators and dealers will be given once a month at the locations listed below. All dates and locations are subject to change. To confirm testing dates, or for additional information regarding appropriate certification categories, call the Ky Department of Agriculture at (502) 573-0282. Study packets for certification can be requested by calling the UK Entomology Department at (859) 257-5955.

Testing will BEGIN at 10:00 a.m. local time. People arriving late will not be admitted to the testing center. All persons taking an exam will be required to pay an examination fee at the time of testing. The examination fee is $25.00 for the initial category and $10.00 for each additional category. The examination fee must be paid by check or money order made payable to the KENTUCKY STATE TREASURER. DO NOT BRING CASH. CASH CANNOT ACCEPTED. Applicants who do not bring this fee in the proper form will not permitted to test.

Benton - Marshall Co Extension Office, (270) 527-3285
Bowling Green - Western Ky Ag. Expo Center, (270) 843-3542
Elizabethtown - Hardin Co. Extension Office, (270) 765-4121
Frankfort – Franklin Co. Extension Office, (502) 695-9035
Morehead – Rowan Co. Courthouse, (606) 784-5457
Owensboro – Daviess Co. Extension Office, (270) 685-8480
Richmond – Madison Co. Extension Office, (859) 623-4072
Somerset – Pulaski Co. Extension Office, (606) 679-6361

Monthly testing dates are posted on the web at http://www.kyagr.com/enviro_out/pestweed/2006pesttrainschedule.htm

INFORMATION ON APPROVED PESTICIDE TRAINING MEETINGS

Commercial and non-commercial pesticide applicators must earn 12 Continuing Education Units (CEU’s) during their 3-year certification period in order to maintain certi-
TOBACCO

TAKE TIME NOW TO GET READY FOR THE 2006 SEASON
by Kenny Seebold

The time to seed tobacco for transplant production is just around the corner. Growers will be faced with a number of challenges this year, including higher production costs associated with increased prices of fuel and other inputs. Losses to disease in the float system are hard to swallow in even the best of years, but will be felt more keenly under our current economic climate. Taking a few simple steps now can lead to better disease control and better yields of transplants in the spring.

The key to successful management of diseases in transplant production should center on prevention, as there are few chemical tools that can be used legally in this system. Adequate sanitation is the first thing a grower should consider. Any tobacco remaining should be destroyed, as should the plastic used to line float bays. Eradicate any weeds in and around float beds.

Styrofoam trays to be re-used should be washed thoroughly with a detergent solution to remove soil and then sanitized. A 10% solution made with 1 part household bleach and 9 parts water, plus a drop or two of dish detergent (to reduce surface tension), is fairly effective in reducing pathogens. Dip pre-washed trays for 2-3 minutes into the solution and then rinse thoroughly with clean water. The latter is crucial because residual bleach left on trays could be phytotoxic. Allow trays to dry and cover them until they are to be used. Steam heat can also be used to disinfect trays. Maintain a temperature of 165-175 °F for 30 minutes for greatest reduction of plant pathogens. Allow trays to cool and cover them until seeding time. Even greater levels of inoculum reduction can be achieved by combining the bleach-dip and steam-heat methods. When filling trays with soil-less mix, never re-cycle media that was used previously. Old media can harbor pathogens such as Pythium that can infest float systems and lead to losses later on.

Lastly, make sure that tools and equipment are sanitized before using them in transplant production systems this season. The same 10% bleach solution used for trays can also be used to sanitize equipment, and there are a number of other materials available for this purpose as well.

Following sound sanitation practices in float systems will go a long way in keeping disease problems on tobacco transplants in check.
should be inspected to ensure that the best possible coverage of spray is provided. Sprays should be directed to the ear zone of the plant using hollow cone nozzles. Drop nozzles on either side of the row are recommended. Early planted sweet corn typically has much less corn earworm pressure than later plantings. In Kentucky, sweet corn harvested after early harvest will likely encounter more intense earworm attack.

Bt sweet corn can be used to reduce earworm damage, particularly with later plantings. Bt sweet corn does not provide 100% control, but is greatly reduces the reliance on insecticides alone. Studies have shown 85 to 95% control with these Bt lines. For 2006, additional sweet corn types will be available with Bt protection.

Insecticide alternatives to the pyrethroids for sweet corn are limited, but include Lannate, Larvin, Sevin, and Spin-tor. Growers will need to watch their crop carefully in 2006 to continually evaluate the levels of control they are obtaining with pyrethroid sprays.

**SHADE TREES & ORNAMENTALS**

**WINTER LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE AND PEST MANAGEMENT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

**by John Hartman**

Kentucky landscape industry professionals are faced with managing an array of diseases, insects, and weeds of ornamentals and trees in residential and institutional grounds. Management of these landscape pests and other landscape industry issues will be the subject of three February workshops to be held in Lexington, Princeton, and Louisville. While landscape plants are dormant, landscape industry professionals have an opportunity to learn the latest techniques for better landscape maintenance, meet other professionals, and to acquire Continuing Education Units (CEU’s) to maintain pesticide and arborist certifications.

**Central Kentucky Ornamental & Turf Association 26th Horticulture Conference**

Date: February 9, 2006. Registration, 7:30 am EST, sessions from 8:15 am - 5:00 pm.
Place: Holiday Inn North, Lexington (Newtown Pike & I-75/64)

Topics include:
- Basics of Weeds & Diseases of Landscape Annuals and Perennials
- “The Dirty Dozen” Invasive Species and Their Eradication
- Trade show break
- Kentucky Employer Checklist/Human Resource Compliance
- Moles and Basic Turf Management
- KY Certified Landscape Technical Exam Update
- New & Underutilized Trees & Shrubs
- Solutions for Compacted & Waterlogged Soils
- Trade show break
- Management of Aquatic Weeds & Algae
- Lexington Street Tree Ordinance Design & Maintenance
- Urban & Farm Watershed: Pesticides, Fertilizers & Management

For more information visit: www.ckota.org or contact Lynn Rushing President CKOTA <lynn@thepondlady.com>, phone: 859-576-0263.

**Best Management Practices Workshop 7 - Pesticide Use in the Landscape**

Date: February 13, 2006. Registration, 8:00 am CST, sessions from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm.
Place: U.K. Research and Education Center, Princeton, KY

Topics include:
- Back to the Basics (IPM)
- Update - Kentucky Laws and Regulations (Pesticide application)
- Weed Control in the Landscape
- Insect Control in the Landscape
- Disease Control in the Landscape
- Pest-Free Plants for the Landscape
- CEU Sign-up

For more information, contact: Dava Hayden <dava.hayden@uky.edu>, phone: 270-554-9520.

**Best Management Practices Workshop 7 - Pesticide Use in the Landscape**

Date: February 14, 2006. Registration, 8:00 am EST, sessions from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm.
Place: Brooklawn Youth and Family Services, 2125 Goldsmith Lane, Louisville, KY

Topics include (same as Princeton workshop):
- Back to the Basics (IPM)
- Update - Kentucky Laws and Regulations (Pesticide application)
- Weed Control in the Landscape
- Insect Control in the Landscape
- Disease Control in the Landscape
- Pest-Free Plants for the Landscape
- CEU Sign-up

For more information, contact: Donna Michael <dmichael@uky.edu>, phone: 502-569-2344.

Interested landscape maintenance professionals should contact the organizers for more information. Registration fees for these workshops and meetings range from $35 to $50 with a discount in some cases for advance or multiple
registrations. It is helpful to pre-register for these meetings; all three events include lunch.