



Plant Disease in Kansas

Tobacco Mosaic found in Retail Chain; many stores affected

Special points of interest:

- *Tobacco mosaic found in plants grown in Illinois and shipped to Kansas*
- *Wheat disease in production fields is low*
- *National Walnut Council Meeting in Manhattan*

Tobacco mosaic virus, the same virus that was present in several Kansas production houses was recently found in a major chain store with petunia flowers. These flowers were grown by RBGI in St. Elmo Illinois and then shipped into Kansas. Apparently the large operation had imported plants from Dummen group (same source as earlier reported) then had missed or infected more than what was originally thrown out.

All petunias from this source were destroyed by the retail chain in cooperation with KDA. It is now believed that over \$300,000 in retail sales have been affected from this disease and regulatory action here in the state. Many more dollars have been saved by stopping the virus

from getting into numerous other plants present in retail centers and gardens of Kansas. TMV disease has a wide host range, easily transmitted to tomatoes, peppers and other flowers, and very stable on contaminated equipment, gloves, and hands of workers.

Over the past month other diseases in greenhouses and retail lots have included downy mildew, mosaic virus, and black

spot of roses. Downy mildew is particularly hard to control requiring special fungicidal sprays. Downy mildew is favored by cool conditions that have been present for the last few weeks.

In coleus, an unidentified virus has been found causing ring-spot patterns and tested negative for tospovirus and tobacco etch virus.

Fig 1. Coleus displaying ring spot viral symptoms.



Wheat crop: Disease outlook is good

Recent surveys by KSU and KDA staff have found little in the way of plant disease in the 2014 crop. Much of the story lies with the weather here in Kansas and to states to the south. In Oklahoma and northern Texas, stripe and leaf rust are for practical purposes absent in the crop and related to drought and some freeze dam-

age. Freeze damage kills leaf tissue along with disease.

This past week, wheat root nematode survey was started by KDA and KSU cooperators. Previous studies and survey have found that a complex of nematode root feeders to be in the majority of wheat fields. Loss generally hovers around

2% for the crop statewide. If this hold true, lesion nematodes that make up the bulk of the complex could be the most important disease to the crop in 2014. This would be a first for wheat losses here in the state.

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INVASIVE SPECIES

Plant Protection and Weed Control Program

Plant Protection and Weed Control staff work to ensure the health of the state's native and cultivated plants by excluding or controlling destructive pests, diseases and weeds. Staff examine and analyze pest conditions in crop fields, rangelands, greenhouses and nurseries. Action taken to control potential infestations of new pests, whether they are insects, plants diseases or weeds, is beneficial to the economy and the environment.

Our Mission is to:

- Exclude or control harmful insects, plant diseases, and weeds;
- Ensure Kansas plants and plant products entering commerce are free from quarantine pests;
- Provide customers with inspection and certification services.

The Plant Disease Survey in Kansas has been conducted since 1976. The survey addresses disease situations in field crops, native ecosystems, and horticultural trade. The Kansas Department of Agriculture works cooperatively with Kansas State University and Extension programs, United States Department of Agriculture, and various commodity groups.

2014 National Walnut Council Meeting in Manhattan

From KSU Forestry—Bob Atchison
<https://www.kansasforests.org>

The Kansas Forest Service, Kansas Chapter of the Walnut Council and the Kansas Forestry Association are pleased to be hosting the 2014 National Walnut Council Meeting, June 8-11, 2014 in Manhattan. This unique opportunity will feature nationally recognized and local experts in the growth, culture and utilization of black walnut and other fine quality hardwoods. Landowners, farmers, ranchers, natural resource professionals, scientists, and forest industry will all benefit attending this event.

The meeting will kick-off on Sunday

afternoon with an optional pre-conference van tour of the 8,616 acre Konza Prairie. Participants may view over 50 species of prairie wildflowers that will be at the height of their bloom and over 300 bison with some bulls that weigh close to a ton. In the evening we will have a special treat, a tour and reception at the Flint Hills Discovery Center. A perfect way to introduce people to the tall grass prairie region while offering plenty of time to network with fellow landowners and natural resource professionals

Monday and Tuesday we will travel to field sites, touring the privately owned Chase-Riat Plantation and Kansas State University's Geyer

Forestry Research Area. The sites feature over 40 years of research on black walnut and other fine quality hardwoods and great opportunities to observe best management practices for black walnut. You should take away several good ideas for your own property.

Tuesday night is the annual awards banquet with background musical entertainment from Bob Atchison, forester, with Kansas Forest Service.

Walnut Council Meeting is not the only thing coming to Manhattan in June. The new state Kansas Department of Agriculture building will be completed and KDA will become Manhattan operational in mid June. KDA will be joining USDA, KSU, and many private ag - businesses in the Manhattan area.