Wisconsin Horticulture Update Summary June 14, 2013

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WI WEATHER REVIEW

For the week ending June 10, 2013 persistent cold and rain kept lawns and gardens soggy. Statewide topsoil moisture was 44% compared to the previous week at 35%. Damp conditions were favorable for weeds but not for other emerging plants.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 5° to 7° below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 64° to 67°, while average low temperatures ranged from 48° to 52°. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.05” in Milwaukee to 0.99” in La Crosse. (WI Crop Report)

Growing degree days (GDD)

Growing degree days is an accumulation of maximum and minimum temperature averages as related directly to plant and insect development. This week, the GDDmod50 in Wisconsin ranged from 288.9 to 746.9. Following is a list of GDD as of June 14, 2013 for the following cities: Bayfield 288.9, Beloit 746.9, Crandon 420.4, Cumberland 446.0, Dubuque 669.5, Eau Claire 509.9, Fond du Lac 521.7, Green Bay 449.8, La Crosse 569.1, Madison 632.4, Milwaukee 498.6, Wausau 457.9. To determine the GDD of any location in Wisconsin, use the degree day calculator at the UW Extension Ag Weather webpage http://www.soils.wisc.edu/uwex_agwx/thermal_models/degree_days

To put it in perspective, following is an abbreviated list of plant and insect phenological stages in relation to GDD accumulations at which the events occur. Common lilac first bloom 207; common flowering quince full bloom 208; Sargent crabapple first bloom 213; wayfaring tree viburnum first bloom 227; elm leafminer adult emergence 228; Koreanspice viburnum full bloom 33; eastern redbud full bloom 254; common horsechestnut first bloom 260; pine needle scale egg hatch 1st generation 277; Sargent crab full bloom 282; eastern spruce aidalgid egg hatch 283; wayfaringtree viburnum full bloom 287; blackhaw viburnum first bloom 301; redosier dogwood first bloom 311; common lilac full bloom 323; lilac borer adult emergence 324; Vanhoutte spirea first bloom 329; common horsechestnut full bloom 344; lesser peach tree borer adult emergence 362; oystershell scale egg hatch 363; blackhaw viburnum full bloom 370 pagoda dogwood first bloom 376; redosier dogwood full bloom 408; Vanhoutte spirea full bloom 429; black locust first bloom 455; pagoda dogwood full bloom 486; smokebush, first bloom 501; common ninebark first bloom 507; arrowwood viburnum first bloom 534; bronze birch borer adult emergence 547; black locust full bloom 548; potato leafhopper adult arrival 568; juniper scale egg hatch 571; common ninebark full bloom 596; arrowwood viburnum full bloom 621; multiflora rose full bloom 643; northern catalpa first bloom 675; black vine weevil first leaf notching due to adult feeding 677; Washington hawthorn full bloom 731; calico scale egg hatch 748.

INTRODUCTION

The host for today's WHU was Director of the WI Master Gardener Volunteer Program, Mike Maddox. PDDC Director Brian Hudelson and insect diagnostician Phil Pellitteri were special guests. Participants in today’s discussions were representatives from the following counties: Brown (Vijai Pandian), Eau Claire (Erin LaFavre), Marinette (Scott Reuss), Milwaukee (Sharon Morrissey), Outagamie (Jill Botvinik), Diana Alfuth (Pierce/ St. Croix), Portage (Sophie Demchik), Racine (Patti Nagai), and Waukesha (Ann Wied).

HORTS’ SHORTS

Agents report the following issues to be of interest this week: It was another cool and rainy week. Gardeners have been taking advantage of the prolonged cool weather to continue pulling weeds and planting. Observations of continued heavy flowering and fruiting on trees, especially black locust, cottonwood, and maple species, were
noted. Questions on declining and dead trees relating to last year’s drought, plant and weed identification, and ash leaf drop were still coming in to most offices. Insects and related issues of note this week: June bugs, gnats, black flies, mosquitoes, elderberry shoot borer, aphids, honeylocust plant bug, plant hopper, European pine sawfly larvae, rhubarb curculio, slug sawfly, spittlebug, fire flies and symptoms of peach leaf gall, spindle gall and erineum gall.

SPECIALIST REPORT: Insect Diagnostic Lab Update

Presented by Phil Pellitteri, Distinguished Faculty Associate, UW-Madison Department of Entomology and Director, UW-Extension Insect Diagnostic Lab pellitte@entomology.wisc.edu

The following were insect problems of note this week.

Earwigs
Complaints of earwig damage have started to come in. This is not particularly surprising, because earwigs like lush springs such as this one. If questions come in regarding something eating seedlings or perennials or chewing on flowers and plants, but insects are not evident during the day, suspect this pest.

Earwigs (UWEX): [http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/diaglab/hilites/a3640.pdf](http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/diaglab/hilites/a3640.pdf)

EAB Confirmation
Another Emerald Ash Borer confirmation was made in Rock County this week.


Aphids
With all the lush new growth this season, aphid populations were doing well, but there should be a decline soon. It seems that in any year with a prolonged cool spring, the aphid populations build up until their predators can catch up. With warming temperatures, the beneficials should be able to take care of the aphids.


Poor Fruit Set
Some growers are starting to report poor fruit set in apple and other fruiting trees. Talking to graduate students working with native bees, the bee populations are low, and it seems it is more than just cool weather that is slowing them down. Much like the butterfly population last year, the bees may have been quite stressed during the drought after starting with low numbers to begin with. It will be interesting to follow this though the season.


Black Flies
Black flies are notorious right now. A species that comes off the Wisconsin River that attacks birds was causing 100% mortality in the bluebird nests we were looking at. There were little gnats flying everywhere, but as a bird feeding species, they were not biting people. There have been reports of the black flies causing problems for nesting whooping cranes too.

I have never encountered black flies. Next week I’ll be traveling around the state and may be in areas that have them. Is there some type of sticky hat or repellant to use around them?

The sticky hat you are referring to is used around deer flies; one puts a sticky substance on a hat to deter them. To repel black flies preferring to bite humans especially around the hairline, try covering your head, or spraying permethrin on a hat. The bigger nuisance is just having clouds of black flies around. Hope for a windy day.


**Velvet Mites**

A more interesting complaint came in this past week on some very fast, very bright red-orange little mites crawling on house siding and getting into homes. They may look a bit like clover mite, a spring problem, but these were much faster. Called velvet mites, these distant relatives of chiggers are predators on insect eggs; they are not plant pests or biters. They will stain things red if crushed, so if someone wants to get rid of them indoors it is best to vacuum them up, not brush them. Outdoor control, if necessary, would be the same as for clover mite; spray the outside foundation with high volumes or drenches of soapy water, or an insecticide, to knock them down.


**Questions**

**Basement Bugs**

_We had a call from someone about tiny white bugs in their basement. We haven’t received a sample yet. Any ideas as to what we should look for?_

A fast little bug that likes humid conditions usually found in basements, could be book lice or psocids. They feed on mold and mildew. The way to control them is to let things dry out. They are called book lice because they are the same color and size as a louse, but these creatures are not parasites and do not bite.

Another possibility would be springtail; they also like moist environments. The most notable characteristic of springtail is they hop. They come in a variety of colors. To manage them, let things dry out. Springtail are outdoor insects that just happen to come in, so barrier treatments may also work on them.


**SPECIALIST REPORT: Plant Diagnostic Disease Clinic**

_Presented by Brian Hudelson, Sr. Outreach Specialist, UW-Plant Pathology and Director of the UW-Extension Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic (PDDC) bdh@plantpath.wisc.edu_

This week’s PDDC report is attached to the end of this summary. Many samples seen this week have issues due to probable carryover effects from last year’s drought stress.

**Spruce Needle Drop**

Some of the diseases seen this week are associated with water stress, particularly on spruce. Several samples have come in with the disorder, spruce needle drop. Not a well-documented disease, it is referred to as a disorder because the fungus associated with it, _Setomelanomma holmii_, has not been proven through Koch’s postulates to demonstrate that the organism is truly a pathogen. It is seen in association with branch dieback and needle loss, usually on trees under stress. Some of the spruce samples coming in had tip dieback, reddening of foliage, which is typically associated with drought stress, and a lot of fruiting bodies of that particular fungus on the branches. Spruce branches may have lots of different fungi fruiting on the bark. To identify them, the fruiting bodies need to be crushed to find little bags of spores that can be seen under the microscope.

There is not much that can be done for this condition. Relieve the stress on the tree by watering it, making sure it gets about one inch of water per week through a soaker hose. Pruning out dead branches will make it look better.

_A client has brought in spruce with brown tips and spruce needle drop is suspected. Should it be submitted to the clinic for diagnosis?_

To determine whether the plant has Rhizosphaera needle cast, Phomopsis, spruce needle drop, or water stress, a sample would have to be seen in the clinic. The organisms, if present, have to be seen microscopically.

Now that conditions have been so wet, if no pathogens are seen on the branches and spruce are dropping needles, there is a possibility that tip dieback is due to root rot. A follow up test on root samples could be done to diagnose root rot. A more likely scenario is that the tree is suffering carryover effects of drought from last year.


**Volutella on Boxwood**

A boxwood sample was diagnosed with *Volutella*. It is a common fungus found in association with boxwood, and technically is considered a pathogen, but it tends to be more opportunistic, causing additional problems to stressed plants.


**Golden Canker**

A few pagoda dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*) samples came in with golden canker. Golden canker is typically a disease seen on pagoda dogwoods under stress. During normal weather years, it is often seen on examples of that species that have been planted in the wrong environment, a place with too much sun and too dry. During last year’s excessive drought and high temperatures, trees were stressed even if planted in better sites.


**Leaf Problems**

Not surprisingly with the cool moist conditions this year, anthracnose and other leaf diseases are coming in. Anthracnose was found on oak and maple.

An oak leaf with some tatters was submitted. It may be attributed to cold injury earlier this season.

A greenhouse grown *Mandevilla* sample came in with Cercospora leaf spot. An uncommon disease, the spores are fun to see under the microscope.


**Response to Stress**

In regards to comments about trees fruiting so much this year, I have seen that in previous seasons after drought stress, and think it to be a response to stress. The trees sense they may die and need to reproduce. The flowers have been beautifully abundant and the amount of seed produced, especially from maples and elms, has been very heavy.

**Questions**

**Whitish leaf margins**

*We have a sample of coneflower leaf with edges that look like they have mildew; it is not on the whole leaf. The leaves curl up and turn brown after a while. Could it be mildew?*

It is uncertain what that may be without seeing it in the lab. Downy mildew and powdery mildew do not usually go on coneflower. If plants were under drought stress or had root rot problems, the lack of water could cause marginal burning on the leaves, then secondary opportunistic fungi that colonize dead tissue and appear white could have come in.

**Leaf galls on peach**

*A client called in about a Red Haven peach tree, that had never had peach curl before, but now has curled leaves with raised red circular galls on it. In the tip of the curled leaf is a tiny insect. Could this be due to bladder gall or rust?*

Peach leaf curl often presents with a lot of reddening of the foliage and can be quite dramatic. The conditions are good for peach leaf curl to be abundant this year.

Encourage the client to send photos or a sample. Their description may be different than what we actually see. It could be peach leaf curl or something very different. It would also be a good idea to pass it on to Phil.

Peach leaf curl (UWEX): [http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/pddc/files/Fact_Sheets/FC_PDF/Peach_Leaf_Curl.pdf](http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/pddc/files/Fact_Sheets/FC_PDF/Peach_Leaf_Curl.pdf)
Teams and Working Groups

There are two UW-Extension teams addressing community gardens, the Horticulture team and the Community Food Systems team. Horticulture educators may participate in both.

The first team, the Horticulture team, has been working with community gardens for a very long time through CUGA (Community Gardens & Urban Agriculture). Much early work done in the Milwaukee area with Dennis Lukaczewski, initially known as FEEDs (Food & Ecosystem Educational Demonstration Sites), continues but in a tapered form. The FEEDs working group focuses on demonstration sites, workshops, and providing a communication tool for community gardeners.

Three years ago, another Horticulture team working group known as “People + Plants” was developed. Historically, the Horticulture team had always worked with community gardens around the state. Horticulture educators worked with youth gardens, school gardens, rental plots and other community gardens, with Master Gardeners and directly with educators in association with community partners. Due to a lack of publicity on these programs, few outsiders knew what experience was available through the Horticulture team throughout the state. Since UW does not have a home horticulture specialist to write publications on community gardening, the Horticulture team decided to develop People + Plants as a way to share their experience by updating community garden publications and providing more education to the public.

A second team with interests in community gardens is the Community Food Systems team. It evolved from a group of program areas. Its main focus is on school and community gardens. Mike Maddox became involved with them in order to prevent duplication of efforts with the Horticulture team, to represent the Horticulture team, and to better enable communication between the two teams. The Community and Food Systems team meets monthly through webinars, phone, Google+ and other methods. Their listserv posts meetings and other messages; subscribe to the listserv from their website.

FEEDs (UWEX): http://feeds.uwex.edu
People + Plants (UWEX): http://fyi.uwex.edu/peopleplants/
Community Food Systems team (UWEX): http://fyi.uwex.edu/cfsi/

People + Plants Update

People + Plants originated as a very ambitious multidisciplinary approach to community gardens. In actual practice the involvement of many disciplines has at times been somewhat unwieldy. Despite that, much has been done.

Case Studies

During a retreat for the Community and Food Systems team meeting last year, colleagues from community development, 4H, nutrition education, horticulture and agriculture, met through workshops to explain their community garden projects. Two days of discussion proved not enough time for everyone to share what they were doing, so a forum was developed where colleagues could share their community gardens experience with everyone throughout the state. Over this past winter, the first five webinars, conducted by colleagues in Iron, Oconto, Milwaukee, Waukesha and Brown Counties were held. The popular webinars discussed tips and tricks Extension educators used in their community gardens. There were many common issues shared on how work was getting done. A Dane Co. webinar is being recorded now. Anyone wishing to highlight a garden is encouraged to be recorded and posted to share.

- UWEX Community Garden Reviews
Publications
Technology was constantly changing, as was personnel, during the development of the project, offering challenges. However, publications have been produced and more are being developed.

Completed:
- Community Gardens—Where People and Plants Come Together
- Starting a Community Garden—How to Put Your Plot on the Path to Success
- Soil Contaminants in Community Gardens

In process:
- Raised Beds and Containers for Community Gardens
- A Year in the Life of a Community Garden
- Common Crops for Community Gardens
  - Espanol
- Youth Gardening
- Chemical-free Community Gardening
- Food Safety in Harvesting

Videos
Two educational videos have been completed, and more will be produced under Patti Nagai’s leadership as she works with a videographer. Hopefully, new ones will be available by the end of summer.

- Site Considerations
- Raised Beds and Container Gardens

Community Gardens Community of Practice
A new social networking option is now available with the Google+ platform for Community Gardens, Community of Practice. It will be used by colleagues to post questions and answers, updates, and educational information relevant to community gardens. It requires a Google+ account for access. Horticulture educators are welcome to join and be part of it. To be part of the community, click on the Community Gardens CoP on Google+ link.

- Community Gardens CoP on Google+
- (private community, UWEX G+ account required)

MGV Participatory Photovoice Mapping Project
As part of the Master Gardener level 2 training, a participatory photovoice mapping project was introduced. Photovoice mapping is a method to engage clientele and stakeholders in documenting what is going on in their communities, and how it relates to a given project. For the Master Gardeners, the topic is Food Systems and Community Gardens. They have been asked to take pictures of community gardens in their communities, of different aspects of their community food systems, and of Master Gardeners in action, all as related to the topic. The photo, along with a description and a story or “voice,” is to be sent with the address of the photo’s site to Mike. The project was publicly rolled out on June 7, and a handful of photos were sent in during the first week. A map denotes locations of the photo sites. Master Gardeners and hort educators are encouraged to participate in this activity, sending photos related to the topic.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about the Food Systems and Community Gardens photovoice mapping project, click on the MGV participatory photovoice mapping project link. If someone is interested in finding out more about photovoice mapping, follow the link to UWEX Participatory photovoice mapping Community of Practice (G+), to learn more from Amber Canto, a food and security specialist who runs and provides information on how to do photovoice mapping.
DNR Urban Horticulture Conversation

On June 19, Mike and Doug Soldat will meet with DNR staff to follow up on an email sent from Tom Coogan, DNR brownfields policy coordinator:

The Dept. of Health Services Staff (Rob and Adam) and DNR’s Remediation and Redevelopment Staff (myself and Michael Prager – possibly a couple of others) would like to meet with you to discuss urban gardening and some of the questions our Departments/Programs receive. This would be an informal meeting just to discuss the issues and where the various programs fit in.

Some additional discussion points/questions:

- Resources available to gardeners – are there any gaps, information that is needed to safely garden?
- How are calls being directed?
- Are gardeners, namely Community Garden folks, encouraged to sample their soil?
- Who is helping gardeners decipher the soil results?
- Are folks aware of the project Steve Ventura, UW-Madison, is working on with the 16th Street Community Health Center, Walnut Way and Medical College of Wisconsin?
- Why does a gardener sample soil? Is it to determine soil quality or is it to find out if the soil contains environmental contamination?
  - Depending on the answer, is it best to have soil sampled at UW Soil Lab or the State Lab of Hygiene?

We will discuss how we handle questions at Extension offices. Many of the questions were addressed in the level 2 Master Gardener training; plant health advisors and Master Gardeners fielded those questions. It is possible Mike may have brought up soil contamination issues that have given the DNR an influx of calls they cannot handle. Mike will communicate what was discussed, perhaps through the Community of Practice, in order to keep interested colleagues updated on the topic.

Conclusion

There is a deadline for spending the grant funds for the People + Plants project. More publications and videos will be produced by the deadline, but the process of developing publications and videos should continue afterwards so the public has access to the collective knowledge and experience of our team in order to make sound decisions when starting a community garden. Cross communication between teams is very important so efforts are not duplicated and resources are clearly defined.

A follow-up to the Community Gardens update will be delivered by Patti Nagai in the August 9, 2013 Wisconsin Horticulture Update.

Questions

Additional publications
Was there a seed starting publication in the works?
There is, but since it is such a broad subject it will be moved to a different publication series.

Team configurations
Have there been talks about merging the teams?
No; the Community Food Systems is a very large team; the other one engages youth. Those are the multidisciplinary teams that were moved forward. We are trying to avoid repetition between the two working groups.

**Horticulture team meetings**

*Are there any Horticulture team meetings scheduled?*

At the last Horticulture team meeting, Barb Larsen stepped down as team leader because of her new liaison position; Doug Soldat stepped down as well. Kristin Krowkowski volunteered to take over some of the leadership responsibilities, but it may have been more of a triage until the team gets together and decides how and what to move forward. A better way to proceed may be to discuss leadership now and have it be a collective decision.

The eastern metro region is sponsoring a professional development opportunity on Aug. 28 at 11 a.m. Vijai has arranged a tour of the Agrecol Co., a native plant production facility. That provides an opportunity for some hort educators to get together. There may be plenty of room for other regions’ hort educators to join. It would be a nice practice if regions doing professional development let others know they have space open in programs.

Email each other to continue the discussion about the Horticulture team meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Factsheet Releases**

Two new Garden FactSheets are available this week: an updated Japanese Beetle sheet and a new one on Rose Rust. They may be accessed through both the PDDC website and the WI Horticulture website. Vijai is posting new factsheets on the WI Horticulture website within 24 hours of publication. If anyone has outstanding factsheets to review, please send to Brian when finished.

**Events**

WI Farm Technology Days. July 9-11. Breezy Hill Dairy, Barron Co. Master Gardeners are needed to answer questions at the event; contact Mike Maddox or Diana Alfuth. For general information on Farm Days: [http://www.wifarmtechnologydays.com](http://www.wifarmtechnologydays.com)

WI Turfgrass Field Days. July 30. AJ Noerr. For general information on Turfgrass Field Days: [http://www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org/Field_Day.htm](http://www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org/Field_Day.htm)

**FINAL NOTES**

The full audio podcast of today’s and archived WHU conferences can be found at [http://fyi.uwex.edu/wihortupdate/](http://fyi.uwex.edu/wihortupdate/)

**UW LINKS**

Wisconsin Horticulture webpage [http://hort.uwex.edu](http://hort.uwex.edu)

UW Plant Disease Diagnostics webpage [http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/pddc/](http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/pddc/)

UW Insect Diagnostic Lab [http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/diaglab/](http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/diaglab/)

UW Turfgrass Science [http://turf.wisc.edu/](http://turf.wisc.edu/)

UW Vegetable Pathology Webpage [http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/wivegdis/](http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/wivegdis/)

UW Vegetable Entomology Webpage [http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/vegento/people/groves.html#](http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/vegento/people/groves.html#)

UW-Extension Weed Science [http://turf.wisc.edu/](http://turf.wisc.edu/)

UW-Extension Learning Store [http://learningstore.uwex.edu](http://learningstore.uwex.edu)

WHU “OFF THE AIR”

During this past week specialists have commented on these issues off the air:

**Vegetable Crop Update**

Update #8 is available at [http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/wivegdis/](http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/wivegdis/)

Included in the newsletter are articles on the following topics:

- DSVs/Blitecast for late blight management
- PDays for early blight management
- Cucurbit downy mildew
## PDDC UPDATE

### UW-Extension/Madison Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic (PDDC) Update

Brian Hudelson, Ann Joy, Erin De Winter and Joyce Wu, Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic

The PDDC receives samples of many plant and soil samples from around the state. The following diseases/disorders have been identified at the PDDC from June 8, 2013 through June 14, 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLANT/SAMPLE TYPE</th>
<th>DISEASE/DISORDER</th>
<th>PATHOGEN</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BROAD-LEAVED WOODY ORNAMENTALS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boxwood</td>
<td>Phyllosticta Leaf Spot</td>
<td><em>Phyllosticta</em> sp.</td>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Volutella Blight</td>
<td><em>Volutella</em> sp.</td>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dogwood (Pagoda)</td>
<td>Golden Canker</td>
<td><em>Cryptodiaporthe corni</em></td>
<td>Dane, Milwaukee</td>
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<td>Anthracnose</td>
<td><em>Discula</em> sp.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tatters</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Grant</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FRUIT CROPS</strong></td>
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<td>Grape</td>
<td>Anthracnose</td>
<td><em>Sphaceloma ampelinum</em></td>
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<td><strong>HERBACEOUS ORNAMENTALS</strong></td>
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<td>Mandevilla</td>
<td>Cercospora Leaf Spot</td>
<td><em>Cercospora</em> sp.</td>
<td>Dane</td>
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<td><strong>NEEDED WOODY ORNAMENTALS</strong></td>
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<td>Fir (Unidentified)</td>
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<td><em>Rhizosphaera</em> sp.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Water Stress</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juniper</td>
<td>Root Rot</td>
<td><em>Rhizoctonia</em> sp., <em>Fusarium</em> sp., <em>Cylindrocarpon</em> sp.</td>
<td>Dane</td>
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<td>Chippewa</td>
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<td>Water Stress</td>
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<td>Walworth</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VEGETABLES</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabbage</td>
<td>Abrasion Injury</td>
<td>None (Blowing Sand)</td>
<td>Waupaca</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For additional information on plant diseases and their control, visit the PDDC website at [pddc.wisc.edu](http://pddc.wisc.edu).