

Diagnostic Tip of the Month

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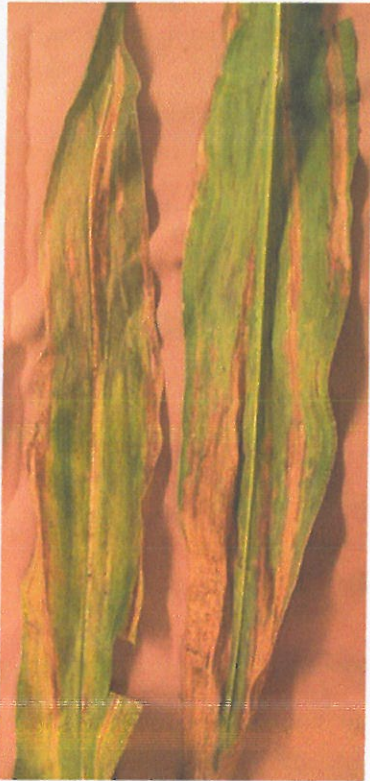


Figure 4. Foliar symptom of Stewart's wilt (*Pantoea stewartii*). (Photo G. Ruhl, Purdue University)

When bacteria are involved in a vascular infection, such as bacterial canker on tomato or Stewart's wilt of corn (Figure 4), the bacteria will stream out from distinct areas that correspond to the plant's vascular tissues (Figure 5).

The microscope used for detection can also be important. A compound microscope with phase contrast optics makes bacterial ooze easier to see.

With phase contrast, light that travels slower through a transparent object will cause the image of that object to appear dark, and consequently a small amount of diffuse bacterial ooze is more obvious.

However, by adjusting the condenser and diaphragm of conventional compound microscopes, bacterial ooze can be easily detected as well. Just remember to readjust the microscope correctly for the rest of your microscopy!

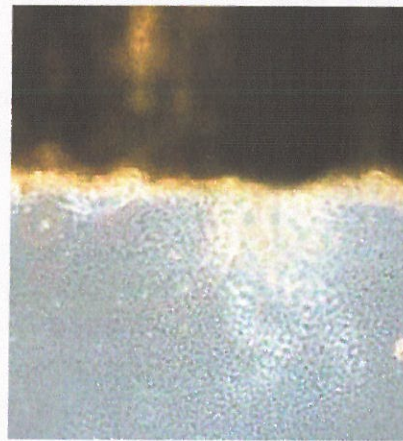


Figure 5. Bacterial streaming from xylem of leaf infected with *Pantoea stewartii*. (Photo G. Ruhl, Purdue University)

National Database

National Database Subcommittee Update

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The NPDN national database subcommittee met on May 16, 2007 to continue our work on reviewing the massive EPA Pest and Host lists and creating guidelines for uploading documents that will clarify how sample diagnoses should be transmitted to the National Repository at Purdue University.

During this meeting a number of issues were addressed. Please refer to the national database subcommittee web page of the [NPDN web site](#) for complete

minutes of this meeting (login and password required).

Topics of discussion during the conference call included:

- The status of changes to the virus pest codes.
- Review of pending change submissions.
- Upload Guidelines Draft version 2.2.
- The 4th IT-Diagnosticians meeting plans.

The next meeting will be held on June 13, 2007.