



Horticultural Inspection Society Central States Chapter

Making Professionalism a Part of Every Effort

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Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection*

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We are fast approaching the annual HIS meeting to be held in Indianapolis, IN this October. I would like to see a large turn out at the meeting and after getting the agenda it looks like its going to be a great meeting, which no one will want to miss. Indianapolis is a great city and I am looking forward to exploring the downtown. I also think that Scott Kinzie and the Indiana inspectors helping with the meeting have put a great deal of thought and effort into the speakers and I am impressed with the wide range of topics which will be covered. Some of these areas will be new for people at the meeting and will get people thinking about new things as they listen.

Many of us have had extra survey and inspections to do because of things like Sudden Oak Death, Emerald Ash Borer, viruses and others. Here in Wisconsin, we have had a very full summer and it has passed very quickly. I got to say one thing comes to mind when I think about all the work, which seems to pop up every year: job security. I think that it also shows the great importance of what we do which sometimes goes unnoticed by the public and even people within our own organizations. I cannot imagine what this country would be like if people like us were not doing what we do so well.



I wanted to thank everyone who has been working on and sending information via the list server. I think that the information which has been shared, has served to educate and enlighten. It gives every member a chance to share information and ideas. I know that I could do a better job of posting information and will make it a goal to do so more in the future. I hope everyone will make it their goal as well. Thanks to Bill McAdams for the email about the weevil he was finding on elms. We found damage which matched his description and after closer inspection, found some of the weevils and collected them for identification.

MEMBER STATES

Illinois,
Indiana,
Iowa,
Kansas,
Kentucky,
Michigan,
Minnesota,
Missouri,
Nebraska,
North Dakota,
Ohio,
South Dakota,
Wisconsin

Minnesota Inspector Chuck Bock Retires in May 2004

Chuck "Circles the Wagons" For The Last Roundup.

"Circling The Wagons" a time honored inspection technique was one of the many euphemisms used by Charles Bock that have been shared with inspection staff and many of our HIS members over the years. No, wagons are not needed, and there are no circles involved. (This simply refers to driving around the inspection site to determine the size and develop an inspection strategy). Mr. Bock leaves behind a number of innovative inspection tips and tricks and many stories as he retires to focus on Rose Gardening.

Chuck was with the MDA for thirty years, doing nursery inspections for the last 15 years.

Thanks Chuck, and Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy Retirement !

Virus Problems on Perennials



Perennial viruses, numerous kinds, continue to be a problem mostly due to the importation of perennial plants from other countries. 10-30 years ago, it was rare to encounter any of these organisms but, now, it is common at virtually every perennial grower and the original source was usually from Europe.

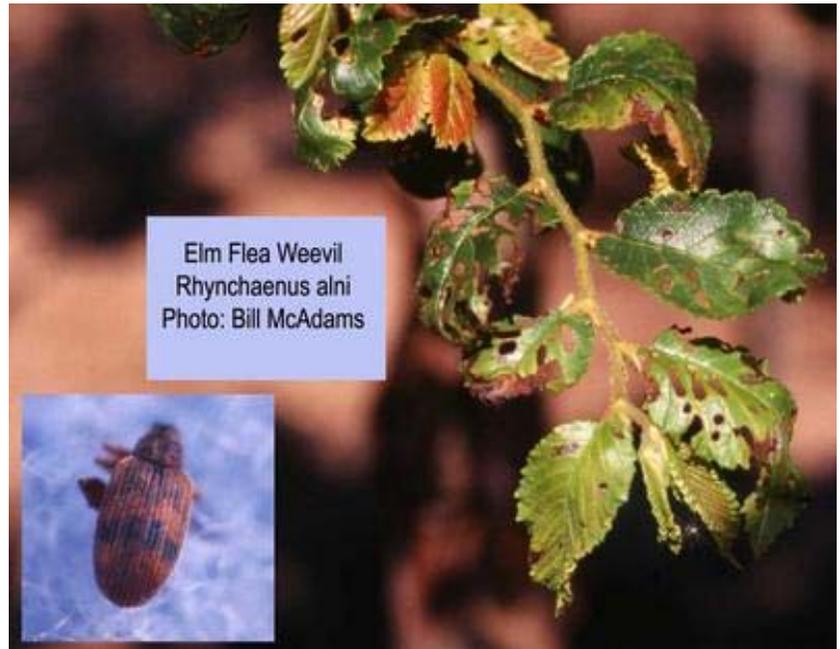
Barry Menser - Michigan



Mr. Bock, prepared for tick infested terrain and the suns damaging rays.

New Flea Weevil Found on Elm

In Spring 2004, a flea weevil species was observed attacking, and doing very substantial damage, to new foliage of elm. The insect was a very small, brown, flea weevil that has two prominent dark zaggged lines running width wise across the elytra. The damage to the foliage are small holes that later can be confused with “shot-hole fungus” damage. During 2004 adult weevils were observed feeding on elm foliage from April into the month of August. They were observed throughout most of the northern half of IL and also into the state of WI.



The weevils appear in the early spring, as elm buds are beginning to expand. This can be used to indicate timing for an adulticide treatment to protect the developing foliage. Another plant indicator that could be: *Cercis canadensis* in the early bloom.

Adult weevils have been active in cold weather which may suggest that they are over-wintering as an adult on or near host elm trees. It also suggests that the weevils were introduced from a climate in which they have become well adapted to cold temperatures. Adults were feeding on elm foliage and copulating when it was about 55 F with about a 20 mile an hour wind in northern IL (April 2004).

The adult weevils are very small and brown in color with two horizontal “zig-zag” stripes which run dorsally across both elytra. Adults also have hind legs adapted to jumping, very much like fleas. And as with most weevils they have geniculate antennae with a characteristically long feeding snout.

Adult weevil feeding causes characteristic small round holes. These holes can be very numerous giving the elm tree canopies a lacy appearance. Weevil larvae infest the elm foliage as leaf miners. Larvae are also very small and creamy white with a light brown head capsule.

The weevils have only been observed causing damage on elm. They will attack any of the elm cultivars, with the heaviest damage being observed on “Homestead” elm. Adult feeding damage can be very noticeable. The potential impact of this pest on elm trees should not be under-estimated. Those wishing to introduce “Dutch Elm” resistant elm trees might find the selling prospects of their trees diminish if weevils are voraciously attacking their existing elm landscapes.

Specimens were sent to Glen Salsbury, with the Kansas Department of Agriculture. Glen identified the weevil as, *Rhynchaenus alni*, a new U.S. record from Europe. However, Bob Dahl, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, submitted a specimen to the University of Wisconsin which confirmed the genus but did not agree with the species identification. The specimen was forwarded to an expert for further determination.

Bill McAdams is a former Inspector with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and currently operates McAdams Consulting Incorporated.