Winter Brings Increased Disease Pressure

The last couple years have been relatively dry for Hawaii because of the effects of El Nino and La Nina. This winter, however La Nina is expected to dissipate. That means we will return to our more usual wetter winters. Higher rainfall favors fungi and bacteria. In addition, the shorter days often don’t give plants a chance to dry out before nightfall.

There are a number of cultural operations growers can do to minimize disease outbreaks. Practicing good sanitation is first on the list. Remove diseased plants, fallen leaves and pots with dead plants. Disinfect benches, tools, handling areas, and walkways. Irrigate early in the day and only when necessary. Inspect the crop regularly and take prompt action when a disease is spotted.

When all else fails and a pesticide spray is required, you can consult the chart in this issue of “Ka Lono Pua” for help in selecting the proper chemical. Remember to READ THE LABEL and follow the directions. The chart is only a guide.

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Future Happenings

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Changes in Use of Chlorpyrifos Products Announced

Dow AgroSciences reached an agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on changes in the use of insecticides containing chlorpyrifos (Dursban®). When congress passed the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA), its stated goal was to reduce the potential exposure of children to all pesticides.

This has forced the EPA to apply standards far more restrictive than those historically established.

“FQPA has fundamentally changed the way in which pesticides are regulated in the United States,” said Elin Miller, vice president of Dow AgroSciences "Unfortunately, we found that continued efforts to retain certain uses of chlorpyrifos in the U.S. no longer made business sense in the current regulatory environment. Under these new circumstances, we found we had to make some very difficult decisions.”

The agreement that Dow AgroSciences and EPA announced includes a voluntary cancellation of most in-and-around-the-home uses of chlorpyrifos in the U.S. That includes use of the product as a full-barrier termiticide treatment in existing residential structures. Retail sale of these chlorpyrifos products in the U.S. will be allowed until December 31, 2001.

Chlorpyrifos will remain available for various U.S. nonresidential uses such as golf courses, ornamental nurseries and for all U.S. crop uses except tomatoes. Most of these labels will be restricted. The agreement also includes refinements in agricultural applications that result in a reduction of chlorpyrifos residues in the U.S.

Growers should read each label and follow directions closely. That way they will not be caught unawares when new changes occur.

Diazinon Registration Changes

Novartis Crop Protection announced that it would no longer register its diazinon products for use indoors, including greenhouse uses.

In compliance with the FQPA, EPA conducted a “Preliminary Human Health and Ecological and Environmental Risk Assessment” for diazinon.

Novartis’ response agreed with many conclusions in the preliminary assessment. For instance, outdoor granular diazinon products were considered by EPA to have an acceptable margin of safety under the new FQPA law.

The EPA requested, however, that new data be developed to continue some uses of diazinon. Due to the additional investment required to generate this data, Novartis informed the EPA that it would no longer support diazinon’s indoor uses, which include greenhouse applications.

Novartis’ decision not to pursue research to support indoor applications will eliminate uses in greenhouses, residential settings, commercial buildings, hospitals, schools, museums, sports facilities, stores and warehouses.

Diazinon, an organophosphate, was first marketed in 1954. A restricted use label was applied to Diazinon in 1998 for greenhouses, nurseries, and other crop uses. Diazinon can still be used by certified applicators in shade houses, outdoor nurseries and in other agricultural crops.

Novartis has requested a meeting with the EPA to discuss these voluntary cancellations and the means to implement this decision.

Poinsettia Scab Found On Oahu

Growers have been alerted by Poinsettia suppliers to be on the look out for Poinsettia Scab. In late August the disease was discovered in a couple of nurseries on Oahu.

The disease is caused by the fungus Sphaceloma poinsettiae and is generally more of a problem in the southern U.S. and tropical areas.

Discarding all unsold plants at the end of the year and sanitizing benches and growing areas before replanting has been the most effective method of avoiding the disease. This year, however Poinsettia cuttings may have come into Hawaii contaminated with the fungus. It is suspected that the contaminated cuttings originated in Central America.

The most pronounced symptom is the elongated stems, which have large internodes between the leaves. On these stretched stems, tan lesions with a red or purple margin can be seen near their base. These tan lesions look like scabs, which is how the common name is derived. Often these symptoms appear just as the plants are flowering, which makes selling the plants practically impossible.

The leaves may develop brown spots with light colored centers and with yellow halos. This disease is sometimes called “Spot Anthracnose” because of the appearance of these spots. There are several places you can go to view pictures of the symptoms. The third edition of “The Poinsettia Manual” has photographs on page 185. If you have internet access, you can look at the following sites:

http://poinsettiatrial.org/scabalert.html
http://poinsettiatrial.org/poinsettiascab.html
http://www.ecke.com/scabupdate/

If the disease is found, controlling it involves roguing out the infected plants and avoiding splashing water, which spreads the spores.

A number of fungicides can be used. The Paul Ecke Ranch recommends the use of myclobutanil (Systhane®), which is registered for use to control powdery mildew.

Other options to consider include: thiophanate-methyl plus mancozeb (Zyban®) which gave the best protection against scab in University of Florida trials.

Also mancozeb (Dithane® T/O, Fore® T/O, Pentathlon® or Protect® T/O) alone can be used as a protectant. Thiophanate-methyl (Cleary’s 3336, Fungo® Flo, SysTec 1998®) alone or thiophanate-methyl plus chlorothalonil (Spectro®) can be used. Copper based fungicides (Kocide® 2000 or Phyton® 27) may also be effective, as would the combination of mancozeb and copper (Junction).

According to Margery Daughtrey, from Cornell University, Iprodione (Chipco 26019) and vinclozolin (Vorlan) are not effective against scab.

Mention of a trademark, company, or proprietary name does not constitute an endorsement, guarantee, or warranty by the University of Hawaii Cooperative Extension Service or its employees and does not imply recommendation to the exclusion of other suitable products or companies.

Caution: Pesticide use is governed by state and federal regulations. Read the pesticide label to be sure that the intended use is included on it, and follow label directions.

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Some days you're the bug; some days, the windshield!

It's not the load that breaks you down - it's the way you carry it.
2000 MIDPAC Schedule of Events
Hawaii MIDPAC Horticultural Conference & Trade Show
Hilo Hawaiian Hotel & Edith Kanakaole Tennis Stadium

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  Conference:
7:30 – 8:30 a.m.  Continental Breakfast & Registration, Hilo Hawaiian Hotel
   Moderator: Dr. Wayne Nishijima, UH Manoa CTAHR-CES
8:30 – 8:45 a.m.  Welcome - Joseph Booth, Great Exportations Hawaii & President HENA
8:45 – 9:30 a.m.  Growth of the Foliage Industry - Bob DeNeve, Hawaiian Phoenix
9:30 – 10:15 a.m.  Usage of Hawaiian Lava Cinder Soin in Controlled-Watering Containers
   Peter Herrera, Inscape Supply Company
10:15 – 10:45 a.m.  Keaau Consolidation Center - Richard Nelson, Aloha Hawaii
10:45 – 11:00 a.m  Break
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  Transportation Panel: Shipping Hawaiian products to our customers
12:45 – 5:30 p.m.  Free time to enjoy the Big Island
5:30 – 8:30 p.m.  Networking Reception & “Hawaiian-Kine” buffet, Hilo Yacht Club

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  Conference:
7:30 – 8:30 a.m.  Continental Breakfast & Registration, Hilo Hawaiian Hotel
   Moderator: Kelvin Sewake, UH Manoa CTAHR-CES
8:30 – 8:45 a.m.  Welcome - Bob DeNeve, Hawaiian Phoenix & Trade Show Chairman
8:45 – 9:30 a.m.  Bromeliads in Hawaii - David Fell, Hawaiian Sunshine Nursery
9:30 – 10:15 a.m.  Hawaiian Foliage & Flowers in Las Vegas - Jim Gibbons, Bellagio Resort
10:15 – 10:45 a.m.  Computer Usage in Interiorscaping
   Joe Cialone, Tropical Ornamentals and Computers
10:45 – 11:00 a.m.  Break
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  Research & Development Panel: Floriculture Research, New Varieties & Postharvest Systems for Pest Management
12:45 – 4:00 p.m.  Free time to enjoy the Big Island
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.  Registration for MIDPAC Horticultural Trade Show
5:00 – 9:30 p.m.  MIDPAC Trade Show
   Mayor Steven Yamashiro, Hawaii County, opening remarks

Thursday, October 26, 2000

7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  Industry Bus Tour
7:00 – 7:30 a.m.  Continental Breakfast & Industry Tour Registration, Hilo Hawaiian Hotel
7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  Industry Tour – meet at Hilo Hawaiian Hotel (includes lunch & trans.)
3:30 – 4:30 p.m.  Trade Show Registration
4:30 – 8:30 p.m.  Trade Show – Edith Kanakaole Tennis Stadium

Friday, October 27, 2000

9:00 a.m. Tee Off  6th Annual HENA Golf Tournament – Volcano Golf Course (weather permitting)
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  Open House at nurseries (ask for list of participating nurseries & maps)
Company

____________________________________________________________________________

Contact ______________________________ Phone __________________ FAX __________________

E-mail _____________________________________ Website

____________________________________________________________________________

Address __________________________________________________________________________

City ______________________________________________________ State __________ Zip ________

□ Wholesaler  □ Interiorscaper  □ Retail  □ Florist  □ Mass marketer  □ Other ______________________

Trade Show & 2-Day Conference Fees $75.00  $___________
(includes continental breakfast & trade show admission)

Single Day Conference ( _____ day 1   ______ day 2) $40.00  $___________

Trade Show only (opening night pupus): Pre-registration by 10/05/00 No charge
Registration at the door $20.00  $___________

Networking Reception & “Hawaiian-kine” Buffet, Hilo Yacht Club $35.00
$___________

Industry Bus Tour (includes lunch & transportation) $40.00  $___________

6th Annual HENA Gold Tournament – October 27, 2000 – Volcano Golf Course $65.00  $___________
(includes greens fees, cart, lunch & prizes) (weather permitting)

HENA Membership Dues: 1st time Active membership $50.00  $___________
Active membership renewal $75.00  $___________
Associate membership $50.00

$___________ Student membership $25.00  $___________

Grand Total $___________
FREE Listing in the Hawaii Agricultural Products Database

In the past the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) published the Hawaii Export Directory, which listed agricultural producers that exported products out of state. Also included were lists by island and product. The last Directory was published in 1997.

The HDOA is now presenting the Products Database on the Internet as a free public service. The database is the basis for departmental communications and to provide contact and product information to potential buyers. Producers do not have to export out of state.

You can check out the listing at the Hawaii Agriculture Gateway: www.hawaiigag.org under Browse for Hawaii Agricultural and other fine Products or go to: http://166.122.225.100:591/expdir/search.htm

To qualify for listing in the database, a product must:
• Be an agriculture product, and:
• Be grown in Hawaii, or;
• Have at least 51% of its wholesale value added by manufacture, assembly, fabrication or production within the State of Hawaii.

You may list your company and products, or update a current listing by filling out this information form and mailing or faxing it to the HDOA.

Hawaii Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Development Division
1428 South King Street
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FAX: 973-9590
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Because the cost of mailing out “Ka Lono Pua” is high in regards to printing, producing and posting, we will happily e-mail copies to those that have access to e-mail. E-mail is faster, too - if you check your mail regularly.

So if you would like to receive “Ka Lono Pua” by e-mail, contact us so we can add your e-mail address to our listings. If you don’t have e-mail or we don’t know what it is, you will continue to receive a regular copy of “Ka Lono Pua.”

Mahalo!

If you have any questions or suggestions, give me a call at 622-4185, Tuesdays and Thursdays or e-mail me at mersino@hawaii.edu.

Edwin F. Mersino
County Extension Agent
Agriculture Program