**Talks for the General Public**

**Tales from the PDDC:**
Trials and Tribulations from 2020 (and Beyond)

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Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

NPDN
National Plant Diagnostic Network

College of
Agricultural & Life Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

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**Tales from the PDDC**
**COVID-19 Crisis**

- Timeline
  - February 5: First WI COVID-19 case recorded
  - February 7-9: Garden Expo occurred
  - March 10: Last in-person program offered (MGV training, Monroe, WI)
  - March 18: Russell Labs closed to the public
  - March 28: PDDC in-lab activities ceased
  - April 25: PDDC in-lab activities resumed

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**Tales from the PDDC**
**COVID-19 Crisis**

- Challenges
  - Staffing was limited
    - Student help was not allowed
    - Staff overlap was not allowed
  - Sample processing is time consuming
    - 2019 sample volume was not sustainable
    - Current reporting method was not viable
  - Data entry became messy
  - Maintaining services/visibility was critical

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**Tales from the PDDC**
**COVID-19 Crisis**

- Solutions
  - Digital diagnostics became the norm
    - Endpoint diagnostic tool
    - Prescreen for physical samples
  - Physical samples were prioritized
    - Commercial food/agriculture samples
    - Regulatory samples
    - Commercial non-food samples
    - Homeowner samples

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**Tales from the PDDC**
**COVID-19 Crisis**

- Solutions
  - Scheduling/communication became critical
    - Mornings: Sue Lueloff
    - Afternoons: Brian Hudelson
  - Reporting and billing went electronic
    - Sample arrival to reporting time shortened
    - Time savings became important
  - Data entry responsibilities were shifted

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**Tales from the PDDC**
**COVID-19 Crisis**

|  | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| Sample numbers (physical) | 1506 (1506) | 2321 (699) |
| **Submission method (%)** | | |
| Mail | 54 | 96 |
| Walk-in | 46 | 4 |
| **Sample type (%)** | | |
| Trees and shrubs | 47 | 58 |
| Vegetables | 22 | 15 |
| Field and forage crops | 8 | 4 |
| Herbaceous ornamentals | 7 | 8 |
| Fruits | 7 | 11 |
| Soil | 4 | 2 |
| Specialty crops | 4 | <1 |
| Miscellaneous | 1 | 2 |

**Tales from the PDDC**
**COVID-19 Crisis**

- **Lasting outcomes**
  - **Clinic diagnostic activities**
    - **Digital diagnostics will continue (for a fee)**
    - **Electronic reporting and billing will continue**
    - **Remote work will continue (at some level)**
  - **Clinic outreach activities**
    - **Distance outreach (Zoom) is here to stay**
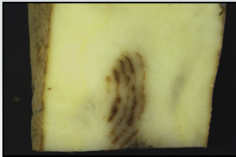    - **Statewide programming will increase**

**Tales from the PDDC**
**Jilted Geraniums**
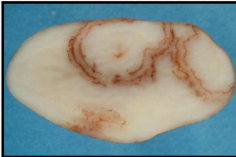
**Tales from the PDDC**
**Battered Boxwoods**

**Tales from the PDDC**
**Aberrant Azaleas**

**Tales from the PDDC**
**Problematic Potatoes: Part I**

**Tales from the PDDC**
**Inscutable Immunostrip**

**Tales from the PDDC**
Problematic Potatoes: Part II

**Tales from the PDDC**
Problematic Potatoes: Part III
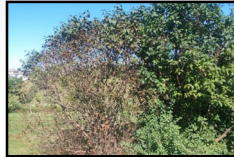
**Tales from the PDDC**
Hobbling Horses
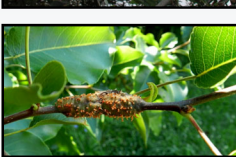
**Tales from the PDDC**
Leafless Lilacs

**Tales from the PDDC**
Crummy Crabapples

**Tales from the PDDC**
Errant Elderberries
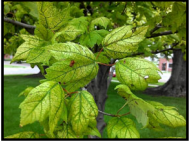
## Tales from the PDDC
### Funky Firs



## Tales from the PDDC
### Troubled Trees and Shrubs



Green Ash
(16SrVII-A)

Black Walnut
(16SrIII/III-A/VII-A)

Chokecherry
(16SrIII-A)

White Ash
(16SrVII-A)

Shagbark Hickory
(16SrVII-A)
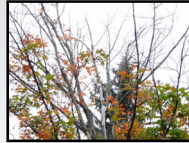
Cranberry
(16SrIII-J/XV/XV-B)

## Tales from the PDDC
### Problematic Planting



## Tales from the PDDC
### Problematic Planting



## Tales from the PDDC
### Questions?

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