

**DESCRIPTION:** A professional plant protection specialist, whether occupied as a farmer, turfgrass manager, crop consultant or researcher must be able to correctly identify a wide variety of plant pest organisms. No one person can be a source of all necessary information, so it is necessary to be able to find sources of information about the identification of plant pests.

**OBJECTIVE:** Working individually, students will prepare a report outlining three useful resources for identification information about plant pests; one on an insect pest, one on a weed and one on a plant disease. Each of the pests must be common on agricultural crops, horticultural plants or turf. Choose one specific pest from each category. Each resource can be from the Internet, books, or personal references (experts/specialists). Do not include more than one personal reference. Grades will be earned based on the attached grading form.

**PROCEDURE:** Students will find three sources of plant pest identification information, which are **useful** in identifying pests. The report will include one source for identifying one representative of each of the major plant pest groups: insects, weeds and plant diseases. A **typed** report will be written listing the resources found and details about the specific pests described. No credit will be given for hand-written reports.

Each of the three references must contain identification information for one specific plant pest and must consist of three parts:

1. A proper listing of the information source (See below for proper formats)
2. A description of the identifying characteristics of the pest **in your own words**. If the pest has more than one growth stage or life cycle stage with a different appearance, be sure to describe the pest at each important stage.
3. For Internet sources, a printout of ONE PAGE of the Web site from which the information is derived. A printed page that proves the site's utility in pest identification is best. Please **do not** print all of the pages from a site; save yourself some ink and paper. Books and personal references do not need printouts.

### Requirements for Resources

#### Internet:

- Be certain that the site you use is widely recognized, reliable and authoritative. University sites including research and extension sites are usually excellent, as are some commercial sites. **BEWARE** of sites with photos with little or no background information: e.g. a site with a photo of an insect I found in my backyard that I ***think*** is Japanese beetle is not very authoritative.
- Some specific sites are not acceptable: Reports with Wikipedia® listed as the source will receive NO CREDIT. Reports on Wikipedia® may or may not have been checked for accuracy, so their use is not acceptable in this class.

**NOTE:** While Google® and other search engines may or may not lead you to a reliable source of information, listing the search engine as a primary source is not acceptable, because their coverage is too general to

be authoritative, and accuracy of the information is not checked by the search engine. NO CREDIT will be given for information listed this way.

- List the proper URL. Sites must include correct and complete URL for the home page of an active site. **HINT:** You may want to copy and paste the URL from the address bar of your browser instead of trying to hand copy it.
- Remember to include the description of the pest ***in your own words***.
- Each site referenced must include one printed page from the site. Printed pages from the site that prove its utility in pest identification are best. These would include pages with photos or descriptions of the pest.
- Sites referenced must include specific pest identification information. **HINT:** BEWARE of sites containing only treatment information, such as the Georgia Pest Management Handbook. These sites contain good information for treatment recommendations, but often NO IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION for pests.
- Sites I list in class will **not** count.

### **Books:**

- Listings for books must have proper complete bibliography information in any standard format (ASA/CSSA/SSSA, APS and MLA format are all acceptable; examples are given below). Books must be available from the ABAC library, e-books available through the ABAC library or public library. Books from other sources need instructor's approval before listing.
- Remember to include the description of the pest ***in your own words***.
- Printouts are not necessary for book references.

### **Personal References:**

- One of the most important sources of pest identification information used by professionals is personal references. To put it simply, when faced with an unknown pest, many professionals ask an expert. Examples of these are extension agents, extension professionals and University research faculty. Personal references should list a person who has been a good source of pest identification information to you.
- References should be limited to persons who are publicly recognized and publicly accessible, and someone with whom you have had some personal contact.
- You will need to speak to the person, and ask them to help you find identification information for one specific pest.
- Listings should include the person's name, title and email address or telephone number.
- Remember to include the description of the pest ***in your own words***.
- No more than one personal resource will be counted.
- Including a personal reference is NOT a requirement for this report.

### **REPORT FORMAT:**

The report will consist of:

1. **Title Page** with Title, student's name and due date
2. **Resource List**, including sources, pest descriptions in your own words and printouts about each specific pest.

Reports should be stapled. Please refrain from the use of report covers.

**EXAMPLES:****Internet Reference:**

University of Georgia, Wild Poinsettia Identification and Control in Peanut  
[http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk\\_id=6447&pg=np&ct=wild%20poinsettia%20identification&kt=&kid=&pid=](http://www.caes.uga.edu/Publications/pubDetail.cfm?pk_id=6447&pg=np&ct=wild%20poinsettia%20identification&kt=&kid=&pid=)

Wild poinsettia is a problem weed in peanuts.

Wild poinsettia is a member of the Spurge plant family. It is an annual, herbaceous plant that can grow up to 24-58 inches tall.

Mature plants have leaves that are linear (long and very narrow), lanceolate (lance-shaped; long, but wider in the middle), or elliptic (oval with a short point or no point).

All of these types of leaves may appear on the same plant. In some instances, the leaves may have small red blotches but considerable variability in leaf shape has been noted. The stems exude a milky, latex-like fluid when broken or crushed.

In the seedling stage, wild poinsettia has linear cotyledons (seed leaves) and variable leaf shapes.

*[Be sure to include a printout (8.5 x 11 in.) of one page of all internet references.]*

**Book Reference:**

Stanek, V. J. 1969. The Pictorial Encyclopedia of Insects. Hamlyn Publishing Group, Limited, London.

*[Include a description of the pest in your own words]*

*[No printout is necessary]*

**Personal Reference: [Plant Diseases]**

Kemarait, B., Ph.D. Extension Plant Pathologist, The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service, Rural Development Center, Tifton, GA, 31794. Telephone: 229-386-7495.

*[Include a description of the pest in your own words]*

*[No printout is necessary]*

**DUE DATE: Classes with lecture Mondays and Fridays: Friday, March 2, 2012**

**Class with lecture Tuesdays and Thursdays: Thursday, March 1, 2011**

**NOTE:** 20 points off for each class meeting day late.

**VALUE:** 10% of course grade.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

**AGRP 1125**

**Pest Identification Resource Project**

**Spring, 2012**

**SCORING**

**Report: Typed, Neat, Organized** (2 points) \_\_\_\_\_

**Title Page** (2 points) \_\_\_\_\_

**INSECT PEST Identification Resource**

**Resource Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Properly Formatted Reference / Printout included** (up to 10 pt) \_\_\_\_\_

**Resource useful for Pest ID** (up to 10 pt) \_\_\_\_\_

**Pest Description *in student's own words*** (up to 12 pt) \_\_\_\_\_

**WEED Identification Resource**

**Resource Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Properly Formatted Reference / Printout included** (up to 10 pt) \_\_\_\_\_

**Resource useful for Pest ID** (up to 10 pt) \_\_\_\_\_

**Pest Description *in student's own words*** (up to 12 pt) \_\_\_\_\_

**PLANT DISEASE Identification Resource**

**Resource Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Properly Formatted Reference / Printout included** (up to 10 pt) \_\_\_\_\_

**Resource useful for Pest ID** (up to 10 pt) \_\_\_\_\_

**Pest Description *in student's own words*** (up to 12 pt) \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Late: (-20 points per day)** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL SCORE 100 - \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_**