



Plant Health Protection Update

- Drought and winter damage to evergreens: The NDA Pesticide Program has received several calls this spring where herbicides are the alleged culprit to injured trees. While herbicide injury may be a possibility, people should be aware that injury could be resulting from the recent cold winter and lack of moisture. Two articles from Fall 2013 may be helpful in determining whether the cause of damage is the result of climate, and avoid costly time and effort by our pesticide inspectors (see [Lancaster County Extension](#) and the [Norfolk Daily News](#)).
- People needing to obtain a commercial or non-commercial pesticide applicator license still have opportunities to take the tests required for certification. NDA has over 20 sessions scheduled now through July where tests are offered. These “walk-in” testing-only sessions do not have training associated with them, and people are encouraged to obtain and review the study material associated with the tests they will be taking. Study material can be purchased from the University of Nebraska [Pesticide Safety Education Program](#) and the walk-in testing session list can be seen at bit.ly/NDAPPdates.
- The University of Nebraska Pesticide Safety Education Program has kicked off the 2014 pesticide container recycling season. Triple-rinsed or pressure-rinsed plastic containers are accepted at select locations around the state. In addition, many of these sites also accept rinsed and drained drums. See the list of collections and hours of operation at pested.unl.edu/recycling.
- Both commercial growers of specialty crops and pesticide applicators are reminded to check out the Nebraska DriftWatch web site, which displays locations of specialty and other pesticide sensitive crops. Commercial growers can register their crop locations on the map, and applicators can select a business area for getting notifications about new locations added to the map – all for free! See the [DriftWatch map and related information here](#).
- [Responsible Pesticide Use for Homeowners](#) – This article in the University of Nebraska’s *Acreage Insights* e-letter provides a good overview of IPM (integrated pest management) for acreage owners and homeowners. More information on pests, pesticide safety, and IPM can be found at pested.unl.edu.

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