

Update on the University of Georgia Extension Plant Pathology Southern Plant Diagnostic Network Plant Disease Clinics and Nematology Lab

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ABSTRACT

The University of Georgia Department of Plant Pathology maintains two Southern Plant Diagnostic Network extension plant disease clinics in Athens and Tifton. The clinics use a county extension delivery system to provide diagnostic reports to the residents of Georgia. Our clientele includes growers, retailers, arborists, golf courses, extension educators, researchers, and homeowners. Between 2020 and 2021, there were 2,169 logged commercial and homeowner physical and digital samples processed, leading to an estimated 2,770 diagnoses. A portion of unlogged samples are handled via various other methods including in person, email and text message. Notable and interesting finds included *Ralstonia solanacearum* on blueberry and *Neopestalotiopsis* spp on strawberry. During the same period, the UGA Extension Nematology Lab received 10,163 samples for nematode analysis. Our programs are committed to providing accurate, unbiased diagnoses and appropriate recommendations which enable timely and effective management.

INTRODUCTION

The UGA Department of Plant Pathology operates two Plant Disease Clinics, in Athens and Tifton and a Nematology lab in Athens. They are part of the SPDN and work closely with the UGA Cooperative Extension county offices and clients.



Sample information was previously entered and stored in the web-based databases DDDI and NARS. In 2021, we transitioned to Pclinic and Nclinic.

OBJECTIVE

This program is committed to providing accurate, unbiased diagnoses and recommendations to facilitate timely and effective management.

RESULTS

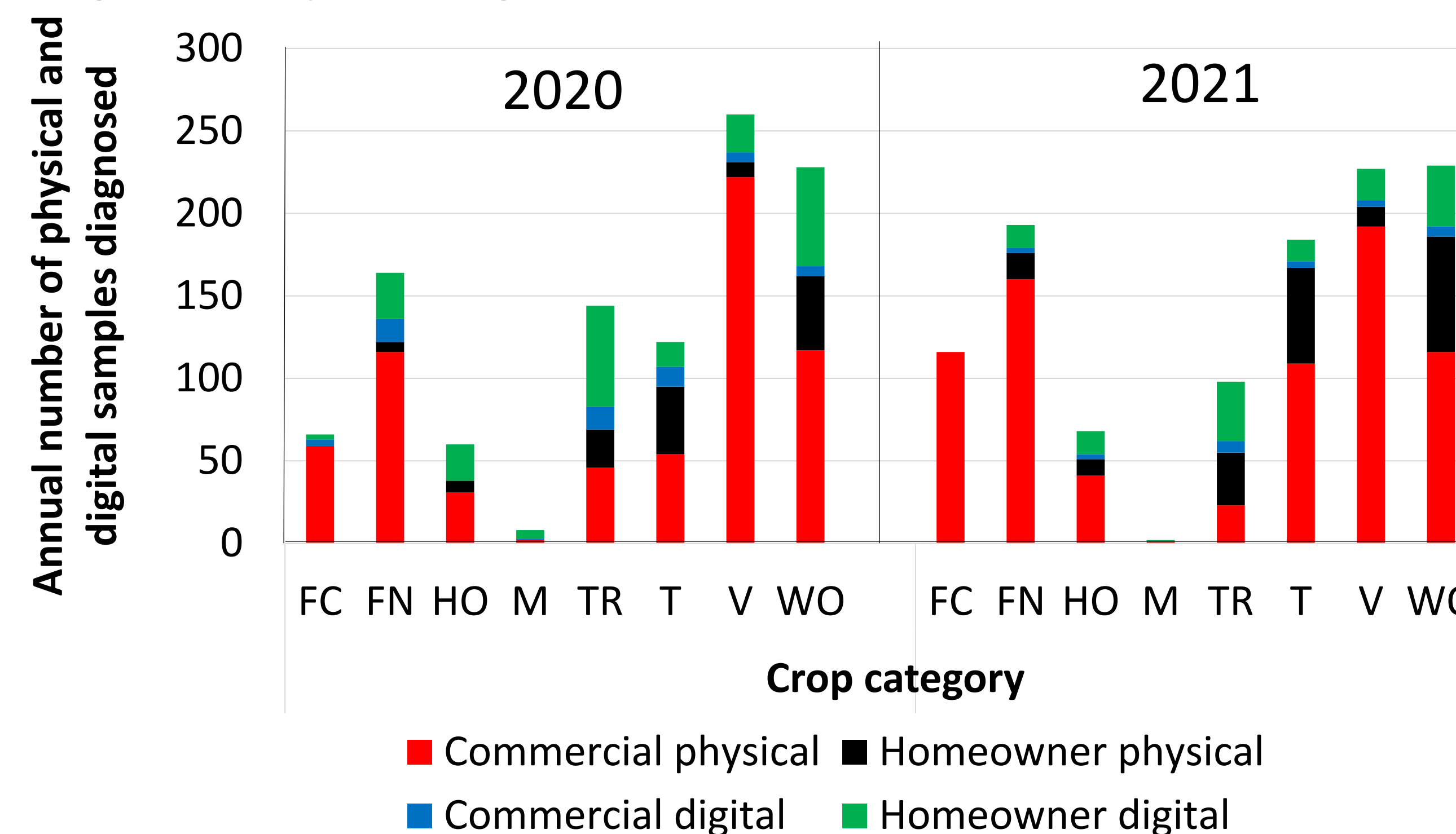
PLANT DISEASE CLINICS AND NEMATOLOGY LAB

Table 1: Client counties for samples processed by the PDCs and for samples received by the Nematology lab.

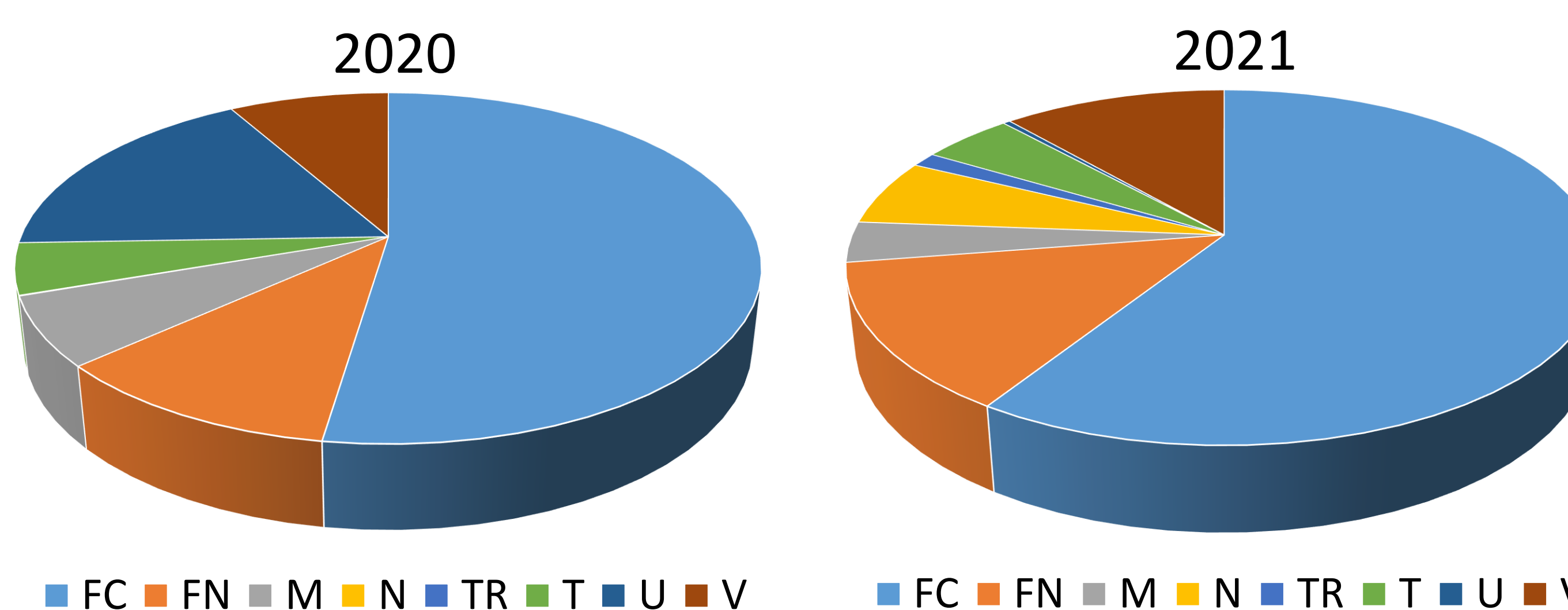
Plant Disease Clinics		Nematology lab	
Year	Number of client counties	Year	Number of client counties
2021	112	2021	76
2020	119	2020	84

The major crop categories are Field Crops (FC), Fruits and Nuts (FN), Herbaceous Ornamentals (HO), Miscellaneous (M), Trees (TR), Turf (T), Vegetables (V), Woody Ornamentals (WO). For Nematology samples, there are additional categories - No crop (NO) and Unknown (U)

Graph 1. Crop category for annual number of physical and digital samples diagnosed



Graph 2. Crop category for annual number of samples processed at the Nematology lab



NPDN NATIONAL REPOSITORY

Between 2020 and 2021, the GA NPDN labs submitted 2106 samples with 3476 associated diagnoses to the NPDN National Repository; 26 entries were first state entry reports (first time in that state for that pest code) submitted to the NPDN National Repository by the GA labs.

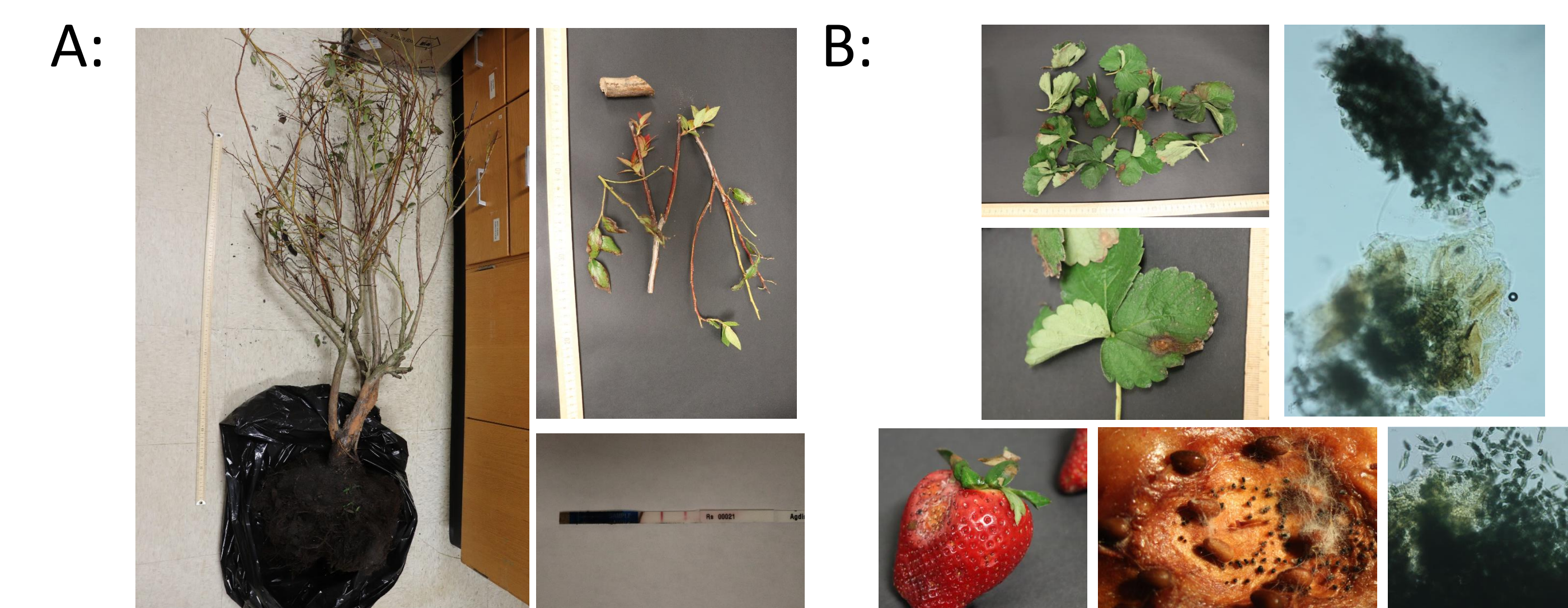


Figure 1. Notable and interesting finds (2020-2021)

A. *Ralstonia solanacearum* on blueberry (confirmed by the USDA Beltsville lab)

B. *Neopestalotiopsis* spp. on strawberry (confirmed by Natalia Peres, Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, UF/IFAS)

C. Odontoglossum Ringspot Virus (ORSV) on orchid

UGA WEBSITES AND BLOGS

There are several UGA CAES Extension websites and blogs. The CAES WordPress website < <https://site.caes.uga.edu/> > lists many of these resources. They include the UGA Blueberry Blog, UGA Citrus Blog, Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium website, UGA Vegetable Extension Pathology Program website, UGA Vegetable Blog ...and many more



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