

# PLANT INDUSTRY NEWS

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MS DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE - CINDY HYDE-SMITH, COMMISSIONER - JOHN G. CAMPBELL, DIRECTOR

## MDAC Debuts Premier Issue of Agriculture Magazine

From the Mississippi Department of  
Agriculture and Commerce  
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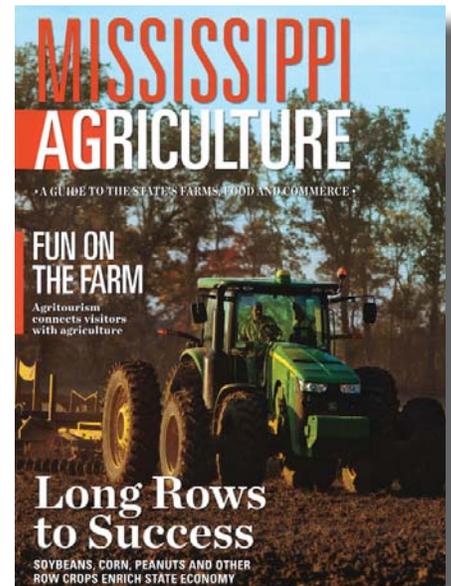
Commissioner Cindy Hyde-Smith and the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) debuted the premier issue of *Mississippi Agriculture*, a comprehensive guide to the state's farms, food, and commerce, on February 6, 2013.

The annual publication, sponsored by MDAC, utilizes a combination of original photography, reader-friendly graphics, and farmer

profiles to tell the story of Mississippi agriculture from the perspective of those that live it each day. It will serve as an educational tool to increase awareness of the important role that agriculture plays in the local, state, and global economy. The magazine will also promote the state's largest industry to a growing number of consumers concerned about their families' food source.

The digital version of *Mississippi Agriculture* is available online at [www.msagriculture.com](http://www.msagriculture.com). In

**Ag Magazine**, continued on page 7



## INSIDE

Pine Shoot Beetle Survey	page 2
Annual Seedsmen's Convention	page 3
Ag Aviation Industry News	page 4
Certifications, Renewals, Events	page 5
Personnel News	page 6
Everything Garden Expo	page 6

## Landscape and Weed Control Licensing Protects Consumers

By Russell Kohler  
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With warm weather just around the corner, the demand for landscape and weed control services is on the rise as Mississippi homeowners prepare their lawns and gardens for spring. If installing new plants or removing unsightly weeds is on your to-do list this year, remember to hire licensed landscape and weed control

professionals with the proven knowledge and expertise to perform quality work.

In Mississippi, anyone who advertises or solicits business to receive fees or contracts for landscaping or weed control services must secure a license from the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce through the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI). To qualify for either license,

**Licensing**, continued on page 7

# Pine Shoot Beetle Survey Soon to be Underway

By Jenny Bibb, Kevin D. Chase, and  
Dr. John J. Riggins  
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The Pine Shoot Beetle (PSB), *Tomicus piniperda* L., is one of the worst native pests of pines in Europe. It can also be found in Africa, Asia, and as of 1992, the beetle was found in the United States. PSB is a dark brown beetle, and its general appearance can be confused with other bark beetles such as the Southern Pine Beetle, *Dendroctonus frontalis* Zimmermann (Fig. 1). Adults are 1/8 to 1/4 inch long, and larvae are approximately 1/4 inch long. PSB reproduces in weakened, stressed, or recently dead trees. Adult PSB's overwinter beneath the bark of pine trees, and emerge in March, or February in warm climates, and can fly up to 1.2 miles searching for suitable host mate-

rial in which to lay eggs after mating occurs. The adults construct 10-25 cm brood galleries under the bark in February or March where they lay their eggs. Females die shortly after laying eggs. After hatching, the larvae chew through the phloem creating galleries (Fig. 2) for a few months and emerge as new adults in late summer.

At this stage, the PSB adult needs to feed as a requirement to reach sexual maturation. When emerging as adults between May and October, PSB will fly short distances in search of new shoots. One adult can attack up to six pine shoots during this stage and can tunnel as far as 10 cm into each shoot (Fig. 3 & 4). Signs and symptoms of PSB include: stunting growth, decline in tree health, and death when

populations are high enough (Fig. 5 & 6). The PSB has a one-year life cycle in Canada and the northern U.S., but can have two generations per year in warmer climates.

Currently, Mississippi's forests rank third in top 10 ag commodities, with a value of \$1.018 billion and land area of 19,600,000 acres. Softwood (pines) timber makes up a large portion of this acreage in Mississippi. Since the only hosts of the PSB are pines, the introduction of this pest to Mississippi, and the southern region in general, could be very devastating, and with prices fluctuating, there could be substantial economic risk.

As of 2012, the PSB has been detected in 19 states: Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota,

**Pine Shoot Beetle**, *continued on page 3*



**Figure 1: Pine Shoot Beetle (left) compared to a Southern Pine Beetle (right)**  
Photos by Christoph Benisch (left) and from [www.flbugs.com/southern-pine-beetle/](http://www.flbugs.com/southern-pine-beetle/) (right)



**Figure 2: Pine Shoot Beetle Galleries**  
Photo by William M. Ciesla, Forest Health Management International, [www.forestryimages.org](http://www.forestryimages.org)



**Figure 3: Circular Entrance or Exit Hole**  
Photo by Gyorgy Csoka, Hungary Forest Research Institute, [www.forestryimages.org](http://www.forestryimages.org)



**Figure 4: Shoot Damage**  
Photo by Steve Passoa, USDA-APHIS-PPQ, [www.forestryimages.org](http://www.forestryimages.org)



**Figure 5: Infested Pine Tree**  
Photo by Robert A. Haack, USDA Forest Service, [www.forestryimages.org](http://www.forestryimages.org)



**Figure 6: Damage to Infested Pine Tree Tip**  
Photo by Bruce Smith, USDA-APHIS-PPQ, [www.forestryimages.org](http://www.forestryimages.org)

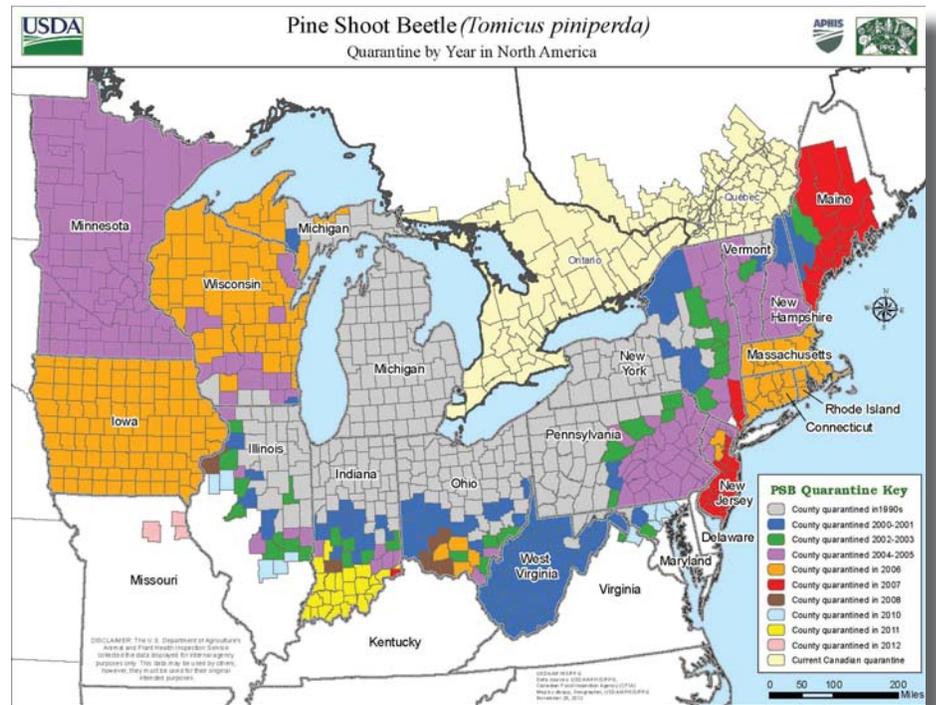
# Pine Shoot Beetle, *continued from page 2*

New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. The PSB can spread naturally by flight dispersal or through artificial routes such as movement of nursery stock, Christmas trees, etc. Quarantine programs are established for the PSB to hopefully limit the spread of this harmful beetle (Fig. 7). However, it is important to monitor for the PSB because of its potential hazard to southern forests. This summer, a PSB Survey will be implemented in Mississippi to help monitor for potential infestations of PSB and other pests. The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Bureau of Plant Industry will be monitoring for PSB throughout Mississippi using funnel traps baited with attractants from pine, which will be set up at Christmas tree farms and pine saw mills.

Contact Jenny Bibb at (662) 325-7763 for additional information regarding PSB.

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Dr. John J. Riggins is an Assistant Professor and Kevin D. Chase is a Graduate Assistant with Mississippi State University's Forestry Entomology Department & Jenny Bibb is Branch Director, Plant Pest and Pesticide Divisions.

E-mail: [Jennyb@mdac.ms.gov](mailto:Jennyb@mdac.ms.gov)



**Figure 7: Quarantine Map**

Map by dbopp, Geographer, USDA-APHIS-PPQ

Data from USDA-APHIS-PPQ, Canadian Food Inspector Agency, November 28, 2012

## Seedsmen Gather in Biloxi for Annual Convention

By Stacey Swain and Fabian Watts

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Seedsmen from across Mississippi and the Southeast gathered in February for the joint annual convention of the Mississippi Seedsmen's Association (MSA) and the Mississippi Crop Improvement Association (MCIA). Held in Biloxi, Mississippi, on February 8-10, 2013, the convention offered seedsmen the opportunity to meet with growers, business owners, regulatory officials, and academic leaders to share new ideas, foster important relationships, and get the most up-to-date information on the critical issues impacting the future of the planting seed industry in Mississippi.

As part of the annual event, association members and guests received an initial seed qual-

ity report for several important crops from the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Seed Division. In test results presented by Seed Division Director Fabian Watts, quality in corn, soybean, cotton, and rice seed stands at promisingly high levels.

Due to extremely dry weather throughout the Midwest last year, concerns were raised about the quality of soybean seed produced in these midwestern states, where a large portion of the seed used by Mississippi farmers is produced. Early reports from the Seed Division, however, are positive and indicate an excellent level of quality in the soybeans available to farmers this year. The average germination, which gives an indication of how well the seed will perform under favorable conditions, is at

94 percent, and the average accelerated aging germination, which gives an indication of how well the seed will perform under a variety of more stressful conditions, is at 88 percent. Officials in Arkansas, Louisiana, Illinois, and Missouri have also reported similarly strong germination results in soybeans.

Other commodities such as corn, cotton, and rice are also testing at high levels this year. The average germination of corn is at 96 percent, and the average germination of cotton is at 94 percent. While the rice market has been down in the past couple of years in Mississippi, the quality of rice remains high with an average germination of 92 percent. The Seed Division will continue to sample and test these and other types of seed in the

**Seedsmen, continued on page 7**

## *A Message from WMAAA*

Regina Russell, President of the Women of the Mississippi Agricultural Aviation Association (WMAAA) would like to thank all of those who helped make the 2013 Mississippi Agricultural Aviation Association Annual Convention a success. The WMAAA is an excellent resource for women wishing to build networks and friendships with other women actively involved in agricultural aviation.

Heather Brignac and Brenda Carson were both recognized at the convention for their outstanding years of service. No successful association can exist without leadership and vision, and the WMAAA encourages all those interested in becoming a member to contact one of the following board members:

### **President**

Regina Russell  
(662) 820-9998

*Regina\_russell@hotmail.com*

### **Vice President**

Heather Brignac  
(662) 364-0718

*bmbignac@gmail.com*

### **Secretary/Treasurer**

Connie McQuary  
(662) 390-7056

*conniemcquary@hotmail.com*

### **WNAAA Representative**

Phyllis Howard  
(662) 624-9470

*ifhyag@bellsouth.net*



**Commissioner Cindy Hyde-Smith (center seated) and the Women of the Mississippi Agricultural Aviation Association at the 2013 Mississippi Agricultural Aviation Association Annual Convention in Biloxi in January.**

Photo by Laura Vollar

## **Ag Pilots Recognized for Environmental Stewardship**

By Trey Cooke

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Four aerial applicators were recently recognized for exemplary environmental stewardship. Selected pilots were ranked highest among their peers based on criteria established through the A.C.E. (Applicators Conserving the Environment) Pilot Program. Those pilots selected for recognition include Ellis Russell of Planters Air Service, Inc. in Alligator, Mississippi; Kelly Peeler of Producers Flying, Inc. in Yazoo City, Mississippi; Matt Brignac of Brignac Flying Service, LLC in Columbus, Mississippi; and Jimmy Duke of Sunflower Flying Service in Sunflower, Mississippi.

Bob Provine, President of the Mississippi Agricultural Aviation Association (MAAA)

said “it was my pleasure as President of MAAA to present the A.C.E. pilot awards at our annual convention. Many aerial applicators in Mississippi deserve this award for the outstanding work they do, and it was a pleasure to recognize these gentlemen that are truly setting the highest standards that are required to be eligible to receive this environmental stewardship award.”

The A.C.E. Pilot Program was developed to recognize top environmental stewards in the ag aviation industry and to incentivize other pilots to become better stewards. Those organizations involved in developing, administering, and validating the program included Delta Council, Delta F.A.R.M., MAAA, Mississippi Agricultural Industry Council, Mississippi Department of **A.C.E. Pilot Award**, *continued on page 5*

# A.C.E. Pilot Award, *continued from page 4*

Agriculture and Commerce, Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Monsanto, Syngenta, USDA Agricultural Research Service, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

All licensed aerial applicators in Mississippi who were members of MAAA in 2012 and had no proven drift violations within the past 24 months were eligible to participate in the A.C.E. Pilot Program. Each participant completed a questionnaire that documented their experience, track record, and voluntary environmental stewardship efforts.

Provine presented each A.C.E. Pilot with a cash award for \$1,500.00 at the recent MAAA annual meeting at the IP Casino in Biloxi. Each pilot will also receive a plaque and a sign for their place of business, recognizing their achievement.

Contact Trey Cooke at (662) 686-3370 for additional information regarding the A.C.E. Pilot Program.

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Trey Cooke is Executive Director, Delta F.A.R.M.



## A.C.E. Pilot Award Recipients

Pictured left to right: Ellis Russell, Planters Air Service; Matt Brignac, Brignac Flying Service, LLC; Jimmy Duke, Sunflower Flying Service; and Kelly Peeler, Producers Flying, Inc.

Photo Courtesy of Delta F.A.R.M.

## Applicator Certifications, License Renewals, and Agricultural Events

### Agricultural Meetings, Field Days, and Events

**March 22-23:** Everything Garden Expo, Mississippi Horse Park, Starkville, (662) 324-3080

**March 28-30:** Charity Walking Horse Show, Kirk Fordice Equine Center, Mississippi State Fairgrounds, Jackson, (601) 942-0138

**March 30:** Ag Museum Easter Egg Hunt, Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum Complex, Jackson, (601) 432-4500

**April 5-6:** New Albany Home and Garden Show, Union County Fairgrounds, New Albany, (662) 534-1916

**April 12-14:** Platinum Productions Spring Jam Barrel Run, Kirk Fordice Equine Center, Mississippi State Fairgrounds, Jackson, (228) 860-8104

**April 15-18:** Horses for Handicapped, Barns, Mississippi State Fairgrounds, Jackson, (601) 832-5810

**April 16-17:** MDWFP Archery Championship,

Kirk Fordice Equine Center, Mississippi State Fairgrounds, Jackson, (601) 213-8111

**April 27-28:** Deep South Peruvian Horse Classic XVIII, Kirk Fordice Equine Center, Mississippi State Fairgrounds, Jackson, (225) 223-7521

**July 18:** Corn and Soybean Field Day, Capps Center, Delta Research and Extension Center, Stoneville, (662) 686-3232

**June 18-19:** Mid-South Green Industry Conference, Muse Center, Pearl, (601) 919-8111

**July 23-27:** Mississippi Agricultural Industry Council Annual Convention, Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach, Alabama, (662) 325-1269 or (662) 325-3992

**July 25-27:** Platinum Productions \$12,500 Added 4-D Barrel Run, Kirk Fordice Equine Center, Mississippi State Fairgrounds, Jackson, (228) 860-8104

### Commercial Applicator Renewals All Categories - Excluding Aerial

**April 2:** Central Mississippi Research and Extension Center, Raymond, (601) 857-2284

**April 4:** Panola County Extension Office, Batesville, (662) 563-6260

**April 10:** Coastal Research and Extension Center, Biloxi, (228) 546-1001

**May 14:** North Mississippi Research and Extension Center, Verona, (662) 566-2201

**May 16:** Delta Research and Extension Center, Stoneville, (662) 686-3205

**July 9:** Central Mississippi Research and Extension Center, Raymond, (601) 857-2284

**July 11:** Panola County Extension Office, Batesville, (662) 563-6260

**July 17:** Forrest County Extension Office, Hattiesburg, (601) 545-6083

**August 13:** North Mississippi Research and Extension Center, Verona, (662) 566-2201

## PERSONNEL NEWS

Pesticide Division Director Tommy McDaniel retired on January 16, 2013, after a 35-year career with the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI). Throughout his career, he worked closely with the Environmental Protection Agency and was involved in important pesticide regulatory programs such as pesticide applicator certification and licensing, enforcement case investigation, and pesticide product registration. He was also an active member of several agricultural organizations during his career, including the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials, Association of Southern Feed, Fertilizer, and Pesticide Control Officials, Mississippi Weed Science Committee, and Certified Crop Advisory Board. A native of Dublin, Mississippi, he attended Mississippi State University (MSU), where he received a bachelor's degree in plant pathology and a master's degree in weed science.

Garrett Gaddy joined BPI on January 22, 2013, as an inspector, serving Hinds, Madison, and Rankin Counties. A native of Crystal Springs, Mississippi, he attended Hinds Community College, where he received an associate's degree in agricultural business management. Gaddy also spent many years working as a cattle farmer and manager of timber lands.

Jenny Bibb joined BPI on January 22, 2013, as a branch director responsible for plant pest and pesticide regulatory programs. A native of Indianola, Mississippi, she attended Hinds Community College, where she received an associate's degree in agricultural business management and general studies. She later attended MSU, where she received a bachelor's degree in agricultural science. While obtaining her master's degree in entomology at MSU, she performed row crop research with MSU Extension specialists as part of her graduate studies. She also held positions at MSU's Brown Loam Experiment Station in Raymond and Extension Service in Starkville.

# Everything Garden EXPO

Presented by the  
**Starkville Area Arts Council**  
Mississippi State University Extension Service

**Friday • March 22nd** 9a.m. - 7p.m.  
**Saturday • March 23rd** 9a.m. - 5p.m.

Various vendors, speakers, educational exhibits & plant sales will be on location.  
There will also be tremendous activities and programs for children.

**MSU HorsePark**  
\$5 per person, children 6 years of age and under are **FREE**

Sponsored by:  
MSU Extension Service, Greater Starkville Development Partnership,  
National Endowment for the Arts and Mississippi Arts Commission.

For more information, contact the Starkville Area Arts Council • (662) 324-3080  
or visit their website • <http://starkvillearts.org>

### MISSISSIPPI MARKET BULLETIN



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# Ag Magazine, *continued from front page*

addition to featuring the magazine, the website contains hundreds of farm-to-fork recipes, gardening ideas, farmers market guides, nutrition information, and agriculture stats and facts.

*Mississippi Agriculture* is available to the

public at no charge. It is supported through advertisements and at no cost to MDAC. It can be obtained at MDAC, the Mississippi Farmers Market, and the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum, or by calling 1-800-551-1830.

# Licensing, *continued from front page*

the applicant must meet education and work experience requirements and make a passing grade of 70 or above on examinations, which test his or her knowledge in landscape and weed control practices. This year, BPI has received numerous requests for landscape horticulturist and horticulture weed control license exam applications and is expecting a larger than usual turnout at its next exam scheduled for April.

While home improvement projects can be costly, homeowners can protect themselves

and their investments by choosing a licensed professional for the job. To find out if an individual is licensed, ask to see an identification card or copy of a license before any landscape or weed control work begins on your property.

Contact Russell Kohler at (662) 325-7766 for additional information regarding landscape and weed control licensing.

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Russell Kohler is Branch Director,  
Regulation of Professional Services.  
E-mail: [RussellK@mdac.ms.gov](mailto:RussellK@mdac.ms.gov)

# Seedsmen, *continued from page 3*

marketplace throughout the remainder of the year to monitor quality and check for truth in labeling.

The three-day event also featured presentations from Dr. Bennie Keith, Director, MCI; Andy Prosser, Deputy Commissioner, MDAC; Dr. Greg Bohach, Vice President of Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine, Mississippi State University (MSU); Dr. Robbie Kroger, Assistant Professor, Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture, MSU; Jeff Mosley, President, MSA; Richard Taylor, Secretary-Treasurer, MSA; Dean Pennington, Executive Director, Yazoo Mississippi Delta Joint Management District, Mississippi Water Resources Association; and Dr. Brian Ottis, Marketing and Client Support Manager, Seed Business Unit, RiceTec. These speakers provided insight on a number of important topics like sustainable agriculture, resource conser-

vation, public outreach, agricultural education, technological innovation, and the latest commodity outlooks.

Along with the annual convention, MSA offers its members continuing education and scholarship opportunities and participates in legislative efforts and promotional campaigns to promote and protect the interests of the seed trade. MCI is the official crop-certifying agency of Mississippi responsible for registering and certifying seed to ensure quality, integrity, and purity. For more information about these associations and their activities, contact the Bureau of Plant Industry at (662) 325-3390.

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Stacey Swain is Communication and Policy Advisor & Fabian Watts is Director,  
Seed Division.  
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**John G. Campbell**  
Director

**Laura Vollar**  
Deputy Director

**Fabian Watts**  
Seed Division Director





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