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Review of Plant Management Network database

Plant Management Network

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Journal of Agricultural and Food Information

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PLANT MANAGEMENT NETWORK. *http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org. Subscription rates: Member: $38; Non-member: $45; University Partnerships: $4,000; Doctoral-Granting University Libraries: $2,500; Other Post-Secondary Academic Libraries: $500; K-12* Acad*emic Libraries: $100; Government/Corporate/Other Library: Inquire.*

The Plant Management Network (PMN) is a cooperative resource for applied plant sciences. Their Web site provides access to thousands of Web-based resource pages from PMN's partners, which include universities, private industries, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and academic societies. A wide range of plant science disciplines are covered, including agronomy, crop science, ecology, entomology, forage management, forestry, horticulture, IPM (integrated pest management), natural resources, nematology, plant pathology, range science, seed science, soil science, turf management, and weed science.

The Journal tab accesses PMN's four peer-reviewed journals: *Applied Turfgrass Science*, *Crop Management*, *Forage and Grazinglands*, and *Plant Health Progress*. These titles are indexed in *Agricola*, the electronic catalog of the United States Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Library and *CAB Abstracts*, a database produced by CABI International.

The Resources tab accesses a compilation of the online resources: Soybean Rust Information, Image Database, Proceedings, Extension Publications, Education Center, Employment/Internships, Arthropod Management Tests, Plant Disease Management Reports, and Variety Trials. The Search tab also accesses PMN Journal Search, the applied cross-journal search just launched in August 2007. This new feature simultaneously searches twelve agricultural journals published by PMN's partners. Mouse-over descriptions would be a useful guide to varied content of the Resources.

The Search tab accesses the PMN Plant Science Database. Both the public and subscription versions of the database access thousands of indexed, Web-based resources, including all articles published in PMN journals, as well as fact sheets, newsletters, product listings, training materials, and other resources hosted at PMN's university, industry, and non-profit partner sites. Useful graphs, charts, and tables are included. While the public version does not allow for refined searches, subscribers can limit searches by source, article type, and "all" or "any" keywords. Also included under the Search tab is The Ag and Plant Science Info. Without stating its purpose clearly, it searches the extension

publications of 30 land-grant partner universities. Unfortunately, it is only possible to search all the institutions at once, or one at a time.

While the layout of the site is easy on the eye, its simplicity leaves the user at a disadvantage; tabs do not clearly describe their content and no Help menu exists. However, after some initial exposure, the structure of this complex and rich resource begins to make more sense. Appropriate and beneficial for researchers, teachers, students, practitioners, policy makers, and the public, a subscription to PMN's Web site would be a wise investment for institutions and individuals connected to any of the multidisciplinary aspects of applied plant sciences.

Madeleine Charney
W.E.B. Du Bois Library
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA