

# Northeast Wisconsin Forest Pest Update

October 15, 2009

## Topics covered this month:

### Insects:

Beech Blight Aphid  
Boxelder Bugs  
EAB  
Gypsy Moth  
Oak Slug Sawfly  
Orange Striped Oakworm

### Diseases:

Beech Bark Disease in Door County  
Mossy Top Fungus and Eutypella Canker  
Powdery Mildew

### Other:

Ash Bark Splitting

## Insects

**Beech blight aphid** – reports have come in from Brown, Kewaunee, and Door Counties of these aphids which can cover branches and do a dramatic “dance” by waving their fuzzy hind ends (left) rapidly back and forth. Sometimes called the Boogie Woogie Aphid, the aphid’s dance can be quite eye-catching, though I suspect they are trying to scare away predators. This insect is not associated with beech bark disease and apparently does



Photo by Bill Ruff.

relatively little damage to the tree, even though its name makes it sound like quite a nasty little aphid. If you’ve never seen the aphids dance there are numerous short videos posted on You Tube, just go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for Beech Blight Aphid.



Photo by Bill Ruff.

**Boxelder bugs** – box elder bugs are showing in some areas of the region. Boxelder bugs (right) are found wherever boxelder grows. They feed on the female flowers, the seeds, and sometimes the twigs of boxelder. They will occasionally feed on other maples and ash. They have piercing/sucking mouthparts and suck sap the trees; they do not bite people. In the fall they congregate in/near houses & foundations trying to find overwintering sites, this is what usually prompts the calls from concerned homeowners. As the weather cools, these insects will attempt to enter houses near foundations, under siding or shingles, and



walls and attics. Use the same methods of control for boxelder bugs that you do for multicolored asian ladybugs.

**Emerald Ash Borer** – from Bill McNee. The Wisconsin Emerald Ash Borer Program has released a new guide for homeowner management of EAB. It's not on the state EAB website yet, but will be soon. The EAB Program's October 2009 newsletter has also been released: [www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov/articleassets/EABNewsletterOctober2009.pdf](http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov/articleassets/EABNewsletterOctober2009.pdf)

EAB survey work will soon resume in Green Bay. It is expected that the city will remove a number of ash from downtown Green Bay later this month, and these trees will be peeled by surveyors from the state EAB Program. As of mid-October, the source of the adult EAB caught in downtown Green Bay has not been identified. The current quarantine map (right) is available at:

[www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov/articleassets/WI\\_EAB\\_Quarantines\\_and\\_Locations.pdf](http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov/articleassets/WI_EAB_Quarantines_and_Locations.pdf)

The Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has released an updated list of businesses that have obtained state EAB compliance agreements for moving ash materials from a quarantined Wisconsin county to a non-quarantined Wisconsin county. The list is available at:

[www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov/articleassets/WI\\_Businesses\\_with\\_EAB\\_Certification.pdf](http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov/articleassets/WI_Businesses_with_EAB_Certification.pdf)



**Gypsy Moth** – from Bill McNee. Now is a good time to look for gypsy moth egg masses to predict the potential damage to trees next summer. Survey methods can be found by visiting [www.gypsymoth.wi.gov](http://www.gypsymoth.wi.gov). The egg masses are tan-colored, about the size of a nickel or quarter, and feel firm. Older egg masses that are soft and faded are not a concern because the eggs hatched this past spring. Most egg masses will be found on tree trunks and the undersides of branches, but they can also be found on buildings, firewood, vehicles, and other outdoor objects. Homeowners with egg masses on individual yard trees can help to reduce the population by removing egg masses within reach and drowning them in soapy water, or by applying horticultural oil available at many garden centers and other retail outlets. The best time to oil egg masses is anytime after the first hard frost in fall through the first week in April, on a day with at least 40 degree temperatures.



Infestations should be reported as soon as possible, as counties must apply to the DNR Suppression Program by early December. Homeowners in residential areas should report their gypsy moth problem to their community government or property owners association. Woodlot owners interested in the DNR aerial spray program should contact their town or county government directly. So far, the 2009-10 Suppression Program in NER is looking to be smaller than last year's, with 6 counties expressing interest to date.

**Oak slug sawfly** - these small, slimy-looking sawflies (right) were defoliating oak in Fond du Lac County. The damage is not usually widespread but can be significant on single trees. These sawflies feed on the undersides of leaves eating the material between veins. Native enemies usually keep the populations in check, additionally, the defoliation occurs late in the season so control is not usually necessary. If pesticides are used they must be general insecticides (not Bt) since this is a sawfly, not a caterpillar.



Photo by Tom Vanden Elzen

**Orange striped oakworm** – this fall defoliator was spotted in the southern part of the region. Orange striped oakworms are black caterpillars, with orange strips, 2 “horns” near their head and numerous smaller soft spikes along their bodies. They feed on oak and can do significant defoliation but the defoliation occurs late in the season and is less stressful for the tree than spring defoliators are. These caterpillars will burrow into the top layers of the soil to pupate where they will spend the winter. As young caterpillars they often feed in groups, but as they grow larger they will begin to feed singly.



Photo by Scott Sullivan

## Diseases

**Beech bark disease in Door Co.** – Beech Bark Disease has been found in Door County. This is the first finding of this disease in Wisconsin.

Beech bark disease is a complex that consists of a scale insect and several species of fungi. The scale insect, *Cryptococcus fagisuga*, is European in origin; *Nectria coccinea* var. *faginata*, one of the associated fungal species, is also presumed to be introduced from Europe. The nearest known location before the Wisconsin find was near Norway, Michigan in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The location of the first finding is west of the city of Sturgeon Bay, and tree mortality has been occurring for several years.



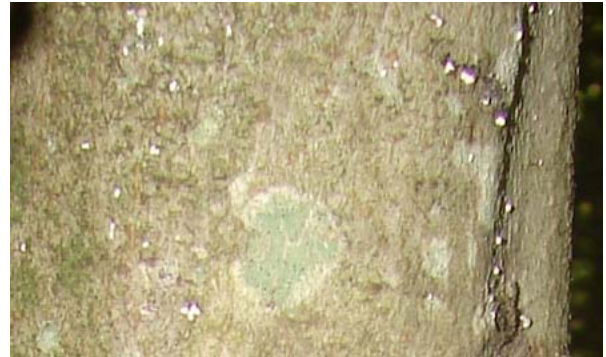
Severe

infestations of scale were present (right) as well as the small bleeding cankers of the *Nectria* fungus (left). Surveys have begun to determine how widespread the infestation is, preliminary findings indicate a low level of scale across a very large area of Door County (below a photo of a light infestation). The surveys continue and I hope to be able to report more definitive boundaries in the next pest update.



Photo by Bill Ruff.

A small percentage (<5%) of American beech are resistant to this disease; another small percentage will be partially resistant while the majority of beech trees are susceptible and will die. The scale and fungus can travel long distances on infested beech logs and firewood. Management options will vary from area to area, depending on the amount of beech present and distance from an infestation. In most cases, it is not desirable to remove all beech from a stand before the disease moves through. This practice would eliminate potentially resistant beech trees.



Light infestation of scale.

More information about Beech Bark Disease can be found at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/fidls/beeckbark/fidl-beech.htm> and a nice document from Michigan about the disease can be found here <http://michigansaf.org/ForestInfo/Health/BBdisease.htm>

**Mossy top fungus and Eutypella Canker** – sometimes called the Cobra Head Canker, Eutypella canker is caused by the fungus *Eutypella parasitica*. This fungus attacks maples, preferring sugar maples, often entering at a branch stub. The fungus kills a portion of the cambium and produces a flattened



dead area on the stem. Sometimes a canker rot fungus, Mossy Top fungus, can enter these eutypella cankers. The only sign will be a small white fruiting body that occurs in the canker face



(right). Most eutypella cankers do not get Mossy Top (*Oxyporus populinus*) but you will find it occasionally. Canker rot fungi are able to break through the compartmentalization that the tree does to try to contain fungal infections. These canker rot fungi can then continue to slowly decay the wood

inside the tree (left). Trees can live for decades with both Eutypella and Mossy Top.

**Powdery Mildew** – a relatively new powdery mildew species (*Sawadaea tulasnei*) that occurs on Norway maple was reported in Oconto County. This mildew is European in origin and was first reported in Wisconsin in 2007. It occurs along veins, in fairly discrete patches (at right is a severe level of infection), and can occur on seeds as well. Symptoms are more common in the lower portions of the crown. No treatment is necessary but when leaves fall they can be raked up and disposed of to limit the amount of inoculum available next year.



Photo by Abby Huibregtse, UW Extension.

## Other/Misc.

**Ash bark splitting** – last month I reported in the pest update that young ash trees in the cities of Green Bay, Appleton, and Fond du Lac were all suffering the same symptoms of split bark and large dead areas on the main stems. Additional reports and photos have come in from Manitowoc and Wausau. These bark splits (right) can be found on all sides of trees, both on the main stem and on branches in the crown, and callus tissue has been growing for at least one year. Based on the widespread occurrence of these same symptoms I suspect something environmental is to blame.



Report EAB:

by phone 1-800-462-2803

by email [DATCPEmeraldAshBorer@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DATCPEmeraldAshBorer@wisconsin.gov)

visit the website <http://emeraldashborer.wi.gov/>

Report Gypsy Moth:

by phone at 1-800-642-6684

by email [dnrfgypsymoth@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dnrfgypsymoth@wisconsin.gov)

visit the website <http://www.gypsymoth.wi.gov/>

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**Note: This pest update covers forest health issues occurring in Northeastern Wisconsin. This informal newsletter is created to provide up-to-date information to foresters, landowners, and others on forest health issues. If you have insect or disease issues to report in areas other than northeastern Wisconsin please report them to your local extension agent, state entomologist or pathologist, or area forest pest specialist.**

Pesticide use: Pesticide recommendations contained in this newsletter are provided only as a guide. You, the applicator, are responsible for using pesticides according to the manufacturer's current label directions. Read and follow label directions and be aware of any state or local laws regarding pesticide use.