

SCR & SER Forest Health Update

Wisconsin DNR, Forest Health Protection Unit

May 4, 2009 Vol. 6 No. 2

Topics in this update

Gypsy Moth Updates

First report of hatch signals time to put up sticky barrier bands
Spray season activities

Reminder: Email spray notification available or 800 number for monitoring treatment timing
Gypsy moth calls will be coming in soon! What do I do?!

Emerald ash borer updates

EAB infested trees were recently discovered in Victory, WI in Vernon Co.
Other EAB highlights
Reporting EAB

Eastern Tent Caterpillar hatch observed

Oak wilt harvesting/pruning guidelines

White pine blister rust blisters observed

Gypsy Moth Updates - Mark Guthmiller

First report of gypsy moth hatch signals time to put up sticky barrier bands

On Monday, April 27th a few first instar caterpillars were observed in Dane and Rock County. Hatch should start picking up over the next week in most parts of southern WI. It is now past the affective time to be oiling egg masses. Residents anticipating gypsy moth troubles this year should now consider putting up sticky barrier bands followed a few weeks later with burlap collection bands placed above the sticky barrier bands. Homemade bands can be used or one can purchase commercial bug barrier products. For sticky barrier bands put up a two or three width wide duct tape band wrapped around the tree and coat the shinny side of the tape with a sticky tangle trap product from the garden center. Monitor daily and sweep off caterpillars that pool below the barrier band into a bucket of soapy water. In early June add a 12-18" wide piece of burlap above the barrier band by wrapping the burlap around the tree and secure it in the middle with string. Fold the top half over the string to make a double skirt that serves as a hiding spot for caterpillars during the day. Again, monitor both barrier and burlap bands daily and sweep caterpillars into a bucket of soapy water.

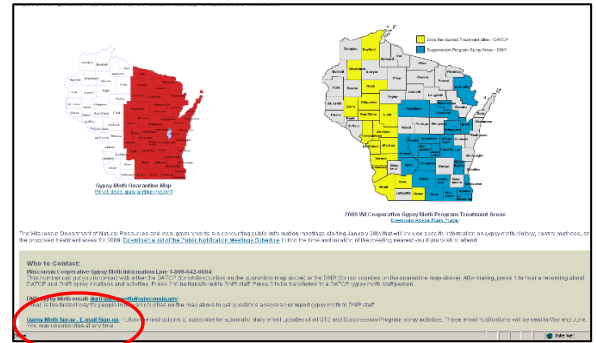


Gypsy moth spray season activities

The first hatch also signals a busy period of coordinating spray treatment activities. Ground observer training was completed last week where county, municipal, and private folks were trained to assist with observations on the ground during spray treatment. Block assignments are getting finalized and designated individuals are now starting to monitor hatch, caterpillar development, and leaf phenology to assist state program staff with decision making regarding timing of treatment

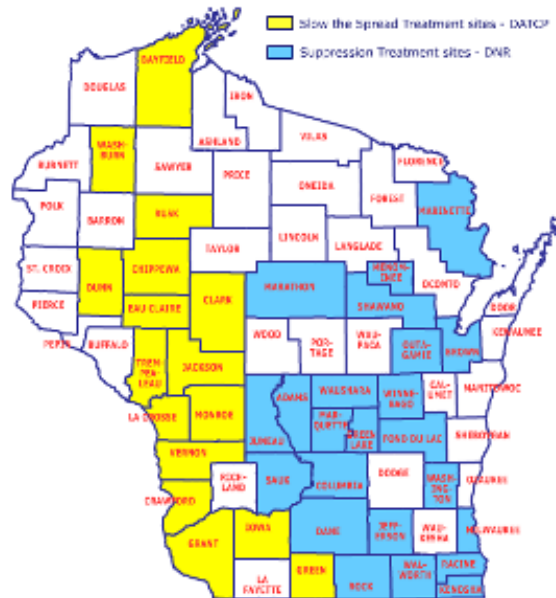
Reminder: Gypsy Moth email notification of suppression and STS treatment activities

A new service started last year will be available to public who want to monitor aerial treatment activities in the spring. Individuals can subscribe each season to get updates by going to the gypsy moth web portal and putting in their email address. Individuals can unsubscribe at any time by going back to this site. Go to <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov> and follow the link to email notification in the grey box on the home page. In addition or as an alternative the public can call the gypsy moth information number for recorded updates at 1-800-642-MOTH (6684)



DNR Gypsy moth suppression program and DATCP STS planned treatment sites for 2009

Approximately 10,800 acres are planned for suppression treatments in 23 counties this coming season. In south central and southeast Wisconsin, participating counties or counties with participating DNR properties include: Adams, Columbia, Dane, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, Rock, Sauk, Walworth, and Washington Counties. In addition to DNR suppression treatments, WI DATCP is planning treatment of ~150,000 acres in 16 counties as part of a national program to slow the spread (STS) of gypsy moth. In south central Wisconsin STS treatments are planned at one site in Green County, one site in Iowa County, and three sites in Grant County. All proposed treatment block maps for both DNR suppression program and the STS program are now posted on line at <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov>.



Gypsy moth calls will be coming in soon! So what do you do if you get a call?

- 1) Direct residents to the gypsy moth web portal: <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov>. This site has lots of general information on ID, control options, and how to participate in the gypsy moth suppression program for next year (2010).
- 2) If residents don't have web access or have additional questions have them contact the gypsy moth information line to speak with a DNR call center staff to answer general questions or to properly direct the caller to the correct resource. The call center service is open from 7 AM to 10 PM, 7 days a week. The gypsy moth information number is: 1-800-

642-MOTH(6684). Residents can also email questions to the DNR gypsy moth program at dnrfgypsymoth@wi.gov

- 3) Mention to the caller that there is a DNR aerial suppression program that is coordinated through participating counties and is a voluntary program at the request of landowners and municipalities (this program is currently offered in many parts of the eastern half of WI). **This is important:** direct them to the following web site to find out who they need to contact to report a problem and request a fall survey for egg masses (this is how communities predict the need for treatment the following year). <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/gm/contact.asp> (If no county or local contact is available suggest they make a report to their local government and county officials wishing they participate in the program and have them call the gypsy moth hotline listed above and leave contact and location information.)
- 4) For other management options direct the public to the web portal above for more information or to link to a list of certified arborists that can offer management or treatment services.
- 5) If you are a DNR forester and are comfortable handling calls feel free to answer or direct caller to the resources listed above. If the caller is a woodland owner or enrolled in the “managed forest law” program the DNR forester may wish to answer questions directly. Many questions may be related to MFL plans, tree and stand vigor, potential impacts, and economics of management options that the forester is best equipped to answer.

Thanks for your assistance on directing these calls!

Emerald ash borer updates - Renee Pinski

EAB infested trees were recently discovered in Victory, WI in Vernon Co.



Infested trees in Victory, WI (photo taken by Mick Skwarok)

A second Emerald Ash Borer infestation has been positively identified in western Wisconsin. On April 7, in the community of Victory, Vernon Co., results came back positive for EAB. An observant property owner phoned in the report to the WI EAB hotline. Victory is located along the Mississippi River and is about 20 miles south of La Crosse. The Iowa/ Minnesota state line is nearby, being just one mile north of Victory.

In response to the infestation, Vernon and Crawford counties were placed under a federal quarantine in an attempt to contain the pest. Houston County, across the river in Minnesota, was also put under a state quarantine.

Additional response included visual surveys conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) staff. Visual surveys turned up evidence of EAB three miles south of Victory and two miles to the north, in trees along the Mississippi River. Infested trees were also identified roughly 1.5 miles east of the river. Further survey work to determine the extent of the infestation is scheduled to begin in May. Survey work will focus on the deployment of sticky panel traps baited with an attractive scent that will be distributed and hung in a grid pattern in and around Victory.

Links for more information on EAB in Wisconsin:

If you would like to read the official DATCP press release announcing the Victory EAB find please visit http://datcp.state.wi.us/press_release/result.jsp?prid=2296 .

Additional information on the Victory find can be found in the Milwaukee Journal- Sentinel <http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/42603362.html> .

The most recent press release on DATCP's plans for EAB detection efforts in 2009 as well as updates on the extent of the Victory EAB infestation can be found at http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/press_release/result.jsp?prid=2305 .

Other EAB highlights

- EAB Awareness Week is May 17-23.
- Wisconsin EAB website- is new and improved! Please visit the 'Emerald Ash Borer Information Source' at www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov and check it out. Please note that some of the content on the site is still under construction.

Reporting EAB

If you suspect that you have found EAB please contact us by any of the following:

- Call the WI EAB Hotline at 1-800-462-2803.
- Email reports and/or digital photos of suspicious insects/trees to DATCPEmeraldAshBorer@wi.gov .
- Submit a report by visiting the state's EAB website www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov and select 'Report EAB' found at the top of the page.

Eastern tent caterpillar peak hatch observed in Columbia County - Mark Guthmiller

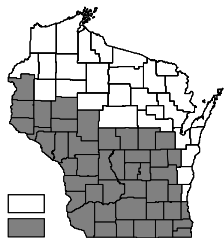
One fruit tree in the city of Portage was observed on April 24th with numerous collars of eggs at peak hatch with first instar caterpillars starting to migrate off to feed on emerging leaves. It shouldn't be too many days before small tents start appearing on trees in southern Wisconsin. For more information on the native eastern tent caterpillar go to:

<http://learningstore.uwex.edu/pdf/A2933.pdf>

Oak wilt harvesting/pruning guidelines

It is the high risk time for oak wilt overland spread now. Please remember, in the urban setting, the Wisconsin DNR advises to avoid pruning or wounding oak **April through July** (April, May, June, and July), or to October to take a cautious approach. If pruning needs to be done during the above time periods, a wound dressing or paint should be applied to the cut surface immediately after pruning.

For the forest setting, the new oak harvest guidelines specify April 15 to July 15 for north of tension zone and April 1 to July 15 for south of tension zone as high risk periods. The new guidelines were developed in 2007 and they recommend timing of oak harvesting based on several site specific factors, such as the location of a stand (Is the stand located in a county where oak wilt is confirmed? Is oak wilt found in the stand?), basal area of oak, terrain (flat or hilly), and soil type. It is easy to obtain an oak harvesting recommendation for a specific stand that you are interested in. You could use an interactive website at



<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/oakWilt/guidelinesform.asp>. After answering each question on the screen and clicking "submit", instantly, you will receive an oak harvest recommendation and risk levels on your specific stand situation. You could also print out a hard copy of the guidelines at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/oakWilt/guidelines.asp>.

By the way, do you remember “April 15 to July 1” as the high risk period, and wonder why new dates? If so, please visit the Wisconsin Urban and Community Forests Newsletter (Spring 2007 issue, p.8) at <http://ua.dnr.wi.gov/forestry/UF/resources/Vol15no1.pdf>.

For more information about oak wilt;

“Oak wilt management - what are the options?” (UW Extension bulletin) at <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/pdf/G3590.pdf>.

“Are you thinking of building on a wooded lot? Protect your trees from oak wilt (WI DNR publication) at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/UF/Resources/OakWilt03.pdf>.

Note: The dates need to be updated on these publications.

White pine blister rust



Blister and yellow spores on infected white pine

White to yellow blisters called “aecia” have started to appear on the canker surface of trees that are infected with the white pine blister rust in the SCR. Some blisters have ruptured and have been releasing bright yellow to orange spores (aeciospores). The white pine blister rust is caused by a fungus. The fungus has two hosts to complete its life cycle - white pine and *Ribes* spp. such as gooseberry and currants. Spores that are released from

white pine attack leaves of *Ribes* spp. In late summer to early fall, spores are released from *Ribes* spp. and infect white pine needles.

If the infection hasn’t reached the main stem, pruning an infected branch may save the tree. Look for a red-needled branch “flag”.

For more information about the white pine blister rust and its management;

USDA FS website at http://www.na.fs.fed.us/Spfo/pubs/howtos/ht_white/white.htm.

WI DNR Silvicultural handbook (white pine chapter) at

<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Publications/Handbooks/24315/31.pdf>.

Please report to us

We appreciate reports of forest health problems in your areas. Currently, there is no regional forest health specialist assigned in SCR or SER. At this point, please contact the following staff for regional forest health problems/questions. Thank you.

For general forest health issues

Jane Cummings-Carlson (northern part of SER) 608-275-3273

Kyoko Scanlon (southern part of SER, and SCR) 608-275-3275

For gypsy moth

Andrea Diss (Statewide issues) 608-264-9247

Mark Guthmiller (SCR/SER) 608-275-3223

Emerald ash borer hotline 1-800-462-2803

Emerald ash borer e-mail DATCPEmeraldAshBorer@wi.gov

Gypsy moth hotline 1-800-642-MOTH

Forest Health web site: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/FH/>

Gypsy Moth web site: <http://www.gypsymoth.wi.gov>

Emerald ash borer web site: <http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov/>

About the newsletter

“SCR & SER Forest Health Update” is an informal newsletter created by the Wisconsin DNR, Forest Health Protection Unit. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide foresters in the South Central Region and Southeastern Region with regional up-to-date forest health information. This newsletter will be issued monthly during the growing season and on an irregular basis during winter as topics come up. We welcome your comments/suggestions on this newsletter and your reports on forest health problems you observed in your area. If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter, please contact Kyoko Scanlon at Kyoko.Scanlon@wisconsin.gov.

Previous issues of this update and regional forest health updates from NER, NOR and WCR, are available from the WI DNR Forestry website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/FH/intheNews/>.

Articles were written by Kyoko Scanlon, unless otherwise noted.