

Northeast Region Forest Pest Update – 10/16/06

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Insects:

North Central Forest Pest Workshop updates – Bill McNee attended the North Central Forest Pest Workshop which was held in Michigan this year. The following are some brief updates from that meeting:

Beech Bark Disease – Beech scale, the insect that creates wounds for fungi to enter and kill beech, has continued to rapidly spread in both lower and upper Michigan. In Lower Michigan, infestations can now be found from Muskegon north along the east shore of Lake Michigan to the Mackinac Bridge. In upper Michigan, the scale has moved as far west as Munising, a jump of approximately 20 miles since last year. At this rate of spread, the scale is likely to be in Wisconsin within 5 years.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid - MI Dept of Ag reported that infested nursery stock was accidentally imported from West Virginia and planted in a neighborhood near Harbor Springs, Michigan (near Petoskey) in 2003. This year, the importation was discovered and eradication was attempted. Because the young crawling adelgids can be dispersed by wind and wildlife, and have had 3 years to disperse, only time will tell whether eradication is successful.

Emerald Ash Borer - Michigan researchers reported test results from a purple interception trap baited with volatiles from both the crown and trunk of ash trees. Results appear promising so far in areas where the ash borer is well established. It is also hoped that these traps could replace the use of girdled detection trees that are currently in use to

find early-stage infestations of EAB. More trials will be underway next summer when the adults are flying.

Additional dispersal studies conducted this summer showed that some EAB adults, when released during a marked release and re-capture study, flew through stands with a considerable ash component rather than stay near the release site. Thus, spread could be faster than has been previously believed.

Emerald Ash Borer – bark peeling training session – everyone is invited! On October 18, the Illinois Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture/ APHIS will host an Emerald Ash Borer bark peeling training session at the Campton Forest Preserve in Kane County, IL. The session will be open from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Advance registration will not be required as this is a "drop-in" session. Participants are encouraged to arrive at any time during these hours and can plan to spend as much time as they feel necessary to practice bark peeling techniques. Draw knives and related safety equipment will be available. Participants will be working with logs infested with the Emerald Ash Borer. The Campton Forest Preserve is located at 4N379 Town Hall Road, St. Charles, IL (approximately 6 miles west of Randall Road and just south of Rt. 64). For more information contact Jeffrey Coath at 847-299-6939 or Jeffrey.T.Coath@aphis.usda.gov

Emerald Ash Borer – Illinois update – currently Illinois is planning an eradication for the Kane County site, which is the first location that EAB was found in Illinois. In a news release issued on September 15, 2006, the Illinois Department of Agriculture estimated there were 150 trees infested with Emerald Ash Borer in that area. The proposed eradication will remove ash trees within an area approximately two square miles surrounding the infested trees; the area includes both landscape trees and wooded areas. A final survey that includes cutting and peeling some trees has been ordered to verify the extent of the infested area before eradication can begin.

Surveys continue in the northern suburbs of Chicago where EAB has been found in 3 locations; final recommendations for that area must wait until surveys are completed.

Emerald Ash Borer – Michigan update – effective September 7, 2006, USDA APHIS expanded the EAB quarantine to include all counties in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. People who wish to move regulated materials (which includes firewood) out of the quarantined area must get a certificate or limited permit from APHIS.

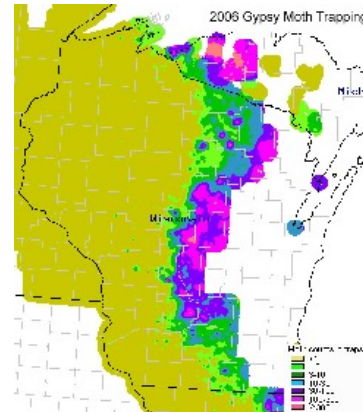
Emerald Ash Borer – WI Response Plan – Wisconsin's EAB Response Plan is now available online at <http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/arm/environment/insects/emerald-ash-borer/response.jsp> ; page down to the section titled "DATCP Activities" and under that is a link titled "Wisconsin EAB Response Plan 38 Page PDF", click on the link to read the entire response plan. Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade And Consumer Protection also has a webpage devoted to EAB, it can be found at <http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/arm/environment/insects/emerald-ash-borer/index.jsp>

Fall pests – the pesky trio of ladybugs, boxelder bugs, and cluster flies was active again this year attempting to enter homes, searching for a place to spend the winter, and prompting lots of calls. The most problematic of the 3 this year was boxelder bugs. The populations of boxelder bugs were particularly high last year and this year. UW Extension has a publication on Multicolored

Asian Ladybeetles <http://wihort.uwex.edu/gardenfacts/X1050.pdf> which lists some of the pesticides that you can spray on the outside of your house to repel the pesky critters, all of the chemicals listed for ladybugs will work very nicely to repel boxelder bugs as well. When I sprayed the outside of my house I got the added bonus of repelling most of the wasps and hornets too! Because the weather has now turned cold the insects shouldn't be swarming your house, unless we get another warm sunny day, or an Indian Summer.

Gypsy moth - from Bill McNee, NER gypsy moth suppression coordinator. Potential participants in the DNR gypsy moth suppression program are reminded that applications must be postmarked by December 1, 2006 for spraying in 2007. For an application or assistance, contact Bill McNee (bill.mcnee@wisconsin.gov). Congress has adjourned until after the November elections, so we still have no news on the availability of cost sharing for 2007 spraying; participants should expect little or no federal money to help offset costs.

The map at right is the trap catch map for 2006. The counties in white are no longer being trapped. If you have questions about specific trap numbers or numbers of moths per county contact Bill McNee.



Pigeon Horntail – sometimes called Pigeon Tremex this insect attacks stressed and dying hardwoods. The large adults lay their eggs in the wood of dead, dying, and diseased trees. In this area the favorite species is maple but during my surveys of dying hickory I found a lot of Pigeon Horntails attacking the hickory as well. The female deposits both an egg and some fungal spores of the canker rot fungus *Cerrina unicolor* to help rot the wood where the larvae will be feeding. Larvae need the canker rot fungus to help decay the wood so that they can eat it. The larvae bore into the rotting wood, mature larvae create a tunnel the diameter of a pencil. Larval galleries can be as short as 15mm or as long as 2 meters! In Wisconsin larvae take 2 years to complete development. Since pigeon tremex prefer dead, dying, or highly stressed trees they are not usually considered a pest. The photo at right showing both an adult (stuck in the wood before it could completely emerge) and a large larvae was taken by Eric Nelson, a teacher at Algoma High School.



Sugar Maple Borer – sugar maple borer is a longhorned beetle that attacks sugar maple. The adult, a yellow and black striped beetle, lays its eggs on sugar maple trees. The eggs hatch and larvae bore under the bark of the tree where they feed for 2 years. During the first year the larvae bores horizontally across the stem then the following year it bores vertically upwards. Damage usually occurs in the lower 30 feet of the tree but can occasionally be found higher than that. The damage often resembles a canker but upon closer inspection the tunneling from the insect can be seen (right). This damage allows



stain to enter the tree at the point of the wound; the stain column is typically limited to 24” above the wound and 12” below the wound. Trees will close the wounds eventually but you may still see the deformity (circled in photo). Open grown trees, trees on the edges of openings, and trees on the edges of stands are often targeted by the sugar maple borer.



Control measures include:

- Maintain healthy trees
- Maintain well-stocked stands
- Remove overmature low-vigor trees
- Monitor sugar maple along stand edges and openings
- Monitor sugar maple recently exposed to full sunlight

For more information check out the brochure How To Identify And Control The Sugar Maple Borer at http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/howtos/ht_mapleborer/mapleborer.htm

White Pine midge damage – a sample was brought to me recently of young white pine with dying branch tips. The ends of the branches were slightly swollen, the tips of the branches were dead, the needles that were present at the tips



were stunted or were bent downwards and the needle bases were swollen (photos). This was occurring in understory white pine throughout the stand. Although I could not find any insects in the samples I collected the damage looks like that caused by a midge. I suspect either a Conifer Gall Midge or a Needle or Twig Midge. The only control information I was able to find prescribed systemic insecticides which are not usually practical in a forest setting.



Diseases:

Annosum – recently I gave a presentation on Annosum at a landowner workshop. The field site was in Waushara County at the Wild Rose Habitat Station where Annosum has been found.

During previous visits I had found mature white pine and red pine dying from Annosum Root Rot but had been unable to find any understory trees being attacked. On my most recent visit I was finally able to show the group what Annosum looks like on an understory sapling! At one of the older annosum pockets I found this white pine sapling (at right) which had been killed by Annosum and had a nice sized fruiting body at the base of the tree. When you’re looking for annosum fruiting structures and suspect an annosum pocket be sure to check dying trees, dead trees, stumps, and dead saplings as well.



Other:

Aspen Mortality – I've had some recent reports of 20-30% mortality in aspen stands in Lincoln, Oneida, and Vilas Counties. None of the stands are mature or over-mature. It's possible that the mortality is due to a combination of the last Forest Tent Caterpillar outbreak which ended about 2002, and subsequent droughty years. I've not had time to go check these stands this year and I may have to wait until spring now that the leaves are off. Has anyone else been experiencing widespread unexplained aspen mortality?

Red Pine Seedling Inventory – Greg Edge, Forestry Geneticist and Nursery Specialist, sent an email on September 25, 2006 indicating that there will be a shortage of Red Pine seedlings for the upcoming year due to freeze problems in 2005 and disease problems in 2006. The following is taken directly from Greg's email:

After analyzing the preliminary results, the nursery program has decided to tentatively remove 1.5 million red pine seedlings from market (a final decision on the fate of these seedlings will be made once the final lab results are calculated). This was a very difficult decision, however to insure the highest quality of stock for our customers, we needed to take this preliminary step. The result is a 2007 saleable red pine inventory of around 2 million seedlings or far less than yearly demand. Therefore it is critically important for all our partners who require red pine seedlings to get their orders in by the start of order processing and the nursery program will do our best to fill as many of those orders as possible. The nursery program is also in the process of seeking out alternative sources of stock for those customers who do not get their order filled or need additional red pine seedlings. This information will be shared with you as soon as it becomes available. Foresters can help the situation by considering alternative species such as white pine and jack pine where site appropriate. Also be advised that much of the remaining red pine inventory will be from Wilson, so the stock, while very appropriate for hand planting, is somewhat larger than typical Hayward stock.

We apologize for the problems this will cause during the 2007 planting season, but we hope you agree that this is the best course of action in order to maintain stock quality and the confidence of our customers. We are confident that our Diplodia management strategies (including annual monitoring for asymptomatic seedlings) will pay off and that future red pine seedlings will be of the highest quality. Thank you for your patience and understanding as our nursery staff works through this challenging time.

Update email addresses – the email extension has changed for DNR staff; please update my email address in your address books. The old address was Linda.Williams@dnr.state.wi.us and will continue to work for at least a year but please update your address lists now, the new address is Linda.Williams@wisconsin.gov

Yellow birch decline – this summer I've visited stands where mature yellow birch is declining in Menominee, Langlade, and Forest Counties. The crowns appear thin with many fine dead branches in the upper crown (right) and small leaves throughout the crown. After examining some crowns recently I suspect that a combination of drought stress from the 2005 drought followed by a late frost/freeze this spring has probably caused most of the decline. There appear to be no insect or disease problems on these trees. This kind of decline can continue to get worse or the tree may recover. Dieback events have occurred in Yellow Birch in the past in Wisconsin; it is unclear if this is the



beginning of widespread decline or if this is a single year isolated event. According to the October 6 issue of a USFS pest update, the eastern half of Michigan's UP is also experiencing this problem.

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<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/Fh/index.htm>