

Northeast Region Forest Pest Update – 5/16/07

Topics covered this month:

Insects:

Asian Longhorned Beetle in NY
Eastern Spruce Gall Adelgid
Eastern Tent Caterpillar
EAB in Chicago
EAB Awareness Week in WI
EAB Radio Campaign
Gypsy Moth
Ladybugs
Leather Beetle
Pales Weevil
Six Spotted Green Tiger Beetle

Diseases:

Early Ash Leaf Drop

Other:

Firewood in WI State Parks
Firewood from IL found in WI
Number of Ash in WI Forests

Insects:

Asian Longhorned Beetle in NY – the New York infestation of Asian Longhorned Beetle continues to spread and has now been found in New York, two separate locations in New Jersey, on Statten Island, and on nearby Prall’s Island which is a bird sanctuary. The areas of Chicago that were previously infested with Asian Longhorned Beetle have been eradicated and the quarantines have been lifted in the Chicago area.

Eastern Spruce Gall Adelgid – have you ever noticed brown swollen areas on the twigs of spruce trees (right) which look like small cones? These are galls formed by adelgids, which are small aphid-like insects that suck plant juices. For part of their life, adelgids live within these nice galls that the tree creates for them, the galls are usually less than an inch long and often form on year-old twigs. As fall approaches the galls turn brown (right), split open, and release the adelgids. The brown empty galls remain on the tree. The galls do not usually kill the branch although severe infestations can stunt the growth of the tree and predispose it to attack from other insects or diseases. Eastern Spruce Gall Adelgid prefers to attack white spruce and Norway spruce. Another adelgid, Cooley Spruce Gall Adelgid, prefers blue spruce and makes larger galls at the tips of twigs. Thanks to Sue Crowley for the photo.



Eastern Tent Caterpillar – small webs created by Eastern Tent Caterpillar are already appearing on cherry trees (right with pen for size comparison). The caterpillars, which began to hatch around the end of April, are capable of completely defoliating the tree that their web nest is located in. They feed outside the web nest and return to the nest to rest. Cherry is a favored species and you'll often see Eastern Tent Caterpillar webs in small cherries along roadsides during the spring. Cherry generally handles this defoliation well, sending out a second set of leaves later in the season.



Emerald Ash Borer in Chicago – the EAB infestations in Chicago continue to grow. EAB has now been found in Skokie, a northern suburb of Chicago which is near the other suburbs that were already infested.

Also, it was announced April 27, that the EAB quarantine area in Cook & Kane Counties (the first IL infestation) would be expanded to include nearby existing yard waste transfer stations and processing sites. This expansion will allow yard waste to be picked up and moved to facilities within the quarantine boundaries without leaving the quarantine area.

EAB Awareness Week in Wisconsin – Governor Doyle has announced Emerald Ash Borer Awareness week, May 20-26. You are urged to become better educated about EAB and the destruction it causes. Check out Wisconsin's EAB website at <http://emeraldashborer.wi.gov>

EAB Radio campaign – a statewide radio ad campaign will begin May 21 across Wisconsin and will urge people not to move firewood this summer. Stay tuned!

Gypsy moth – from Bill McNee, NER Gypsy Moth Suppression Coordinator. DNR spraying for gypsy moth started on Saturday, May 12, with spraying completed in Brown, Dane, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, and Sauk Counties. Treatments with gypchek (a viral insecticide) in Adams and Waushara are currently scheduled for Wednesday, May 16. Spraying at two sites on Chambers Island in Door County will be done around the end of the month. Slow-the-spread treatments by the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection are also underway in the western half of the state. Maps of treatment areas in both programs are available at gypsymoth.wi.gov

Ladybugs – the multicolored asian ladybeetle, those pesky invasive ladybugs, are prompting many phone calls to the DNR as they become active this spring and attempt to leave the houses where they spent the winter. As they become active they may “escape” to the inside of your home although they are really trying to get outside. Ladybugs that are already inside homes should be vacuumed up, not sprayed with a pesticide. If it bothers you to have ladybugs in your house then plans should be made to prevent them from entering again this fall by either building them out of your house or by spraying a repellent pesticide on the outside of your house in the fall. If you can keep them out of your house in the fall when they're congregating then you'll be ladybug free all winter and the following spring. Check out the UW Extension factsheet for more info <http://wihort.uwex.edu/gardenfacts/X1050.pdf>



Leather beetle - large C-shaped white grubs that are found in rotting stumps are usually the larvae of a scarab beetle (*Osmoderma sp.*).

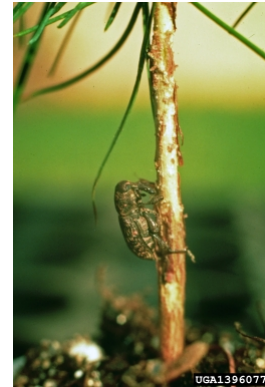


The adult beetles (left) are one of the larger insects in Wisconsin. They are harmless but their size is impressive. There is sometimes a strong odor of leather when an adult is captured which leads to the name "leather beetle." They are also called the Hermit Flower beetle although I have no



idea why. A landowner in Oconto County found the grubs at right in a rotting aspen tree. More commonly I will find this insect inside oak trees with rotten centers. The larvae feed on decaying wood inside trees and complete their lifecycle within the tree. Thanks to Ryan Severson for the great grub photo.

Pales weevil – pales weevil can cause significant damage to pine seedlings. Adult weevils are attracted to freshly cut pine stands where they breed in fresh stumps and old root systems. Adult weevils emerging from the stumps and roots of the old stand feed on the bark of twigs or seedlings. Newly planted seedlings can be damaged enough to cause mortality. Photo at right from USFS shows adult feeding on the stem of a newly planted seedling. Whitish, crystallized resin forms over the wounds, giving the seedling a sugary appearance. Pales weevil feeds on most conifers but most recently I've seen it on red pine and white pine seedlings that were planted immediately following harvests of red pine stands. Control is usually achieved by waiting to replant for 1 full year or 2 years after the harvest of the mature stand. This waiting period allows weevils to come to the stand, infest the fresh stumps, emerge, and leave the stand before you plant any new seedlings. For more info and additional pictures check out <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/fidls/pales/fidl-pales.htm>



Six Spotted Green Tiger Beetle – lots of people are finding this beetle and mistakenly identifying it as Emerald Ash Borer. Here are some differences. Six spotted green tiger beetle (right) has some white spots on its wing covers, EAB (below left) has solid green wing covers. EAB is shaped like a rifle bullet or like needle-nosed pliers, six spotted green tiger beetles are more rounded and stocky. Six spotted green tiger



beetles are slightly larger than 1/2 an inch, if you include legs and antennae it's closer to 1" in length, EAB is slightly smaller than 1/2 inch. EAB has very short antennae that curve over the head, six spotted green tiger beetles have antennae that are almost as long as the body and stick out from the head. You'll also notice in the photo above that tiger beetles have large impressive jaws for devouring other insects, EAB doesn't have large jaws like this.

Diseases:

Early ash leaf drop – the first report of early ash leaf drop came in to me yesterday. This phenomenon has been observed in past years but the reason why this happens is not well understood. It appears that most leaves being dropped have at least some infection from the fungal disease anthracnose and the trees are purging those infected leaflets. The report this year came from Fond du Lac but in past years early ash leaf drop has been noted throughout the region.

Other:

Firewood at Wisconsin State Parks – from Bill McNee, NER Gypsy Moth Suppression Coordinator. New rules in effect in State Parks and Forests prohibit the importation of firewood from outside of Wisconsin or from more than 50 miles away even if within Wisconsin. This restriction is resulting in increased numbers of upset campers and wood confiscations. The Green Bay Press-Gazette ran a recent story on the issue at Peninsula State Park:
<http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070514/GPG0101/705140486/1207/GPGnews&template=printart>

The first of regular mailings of yellow postcards with the "Please don't move firewood" message was sent out last week to those with camping reservations. These will be sent to Wisconsin residents and out-of-state campers who have reserved DNR campsites this year. A total of 170,000 postcards will be sent between now and October - including 45,000 people with currently reserved campsites and 60,000 new campers who reserve as the camping season progresses.

Firewood from IL found in WI – from Bill McNee, NER Gypsy Moth Suppression Coordinator. At the end of April, approximately 23,000 bundles of firewood from Illinois were recalled from several large home improvement retailers in the midwest and as far west as Nebraska and the Dakotas. The whole state of Illinois is quarantined to prevent any potentially EAB-infested wood from leaving the state. To date EAB has not been found in any of the wood, although many news stories at the time implied that EAB was in the wood.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you purchased Taylors Wood Products, Inc. firewood from area Menards home improvement stores please burn the firewood as soon as possible since it was not properly treated to eliminate the risk of transporting EAB.

Number of ash in WI forests – according to the latest data (numbers from 2005) Wisconsin forests have 727 million ash trees greater than 1” in diameter in Wisconsin’s forests (approximately 7% of the forest).

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