

## Northeast Wisconsin Forest Pest Update – 8/15/07

### Topics covered this month:

#### **Insects:**

Barklice  
EAB  
Elm Sawfly  
Gypsy Moth  
Jack Pine Budworm on Red Pine  
Japanese Beetles  
Linden Wart Gall Midge  
Pear Sawfly on Cherry  
Sirex Woodwasp in Michigan  
Spruce Budworm

#### **Diseases:**

nothing at this time

#### **Other:**

Drought conditions  
Firewood Rule Webpage  
New Forest Health Employee starting in Rhinelander  
Forest Health Webpage address update

### **Insects:**

**Barklice** – barklice have begun congregating this year with the first reports coming in from Marinette County. Barklice are not true lice, that's just their common name. They do not bite and



they do not carry diseases. Barklice feed on bark, under dead bark, on lichens, on fungi, and in bird nests. I'm not sure why they are found in large groups but it may be related to mating, or, they may just be gregarious and like to hang out as a group (immature barklice at left). As with many soft-bodied insects, a soaking of soapy water will kill these little critters. Or let them live, look close, and enjoy the little stripes on their abdomens, they don't really do any damage, so enjoy!

**EAB** – 2 new findings in IL – On July 11 it was announced that a 3<sup>rd</sup> county in Illinois has an Emerald Ash Borer infestation. Workers identifying trees for a destructive survey noticed dying trees along a highway near Peru in LeSalle County. Additionally, it was announced on July 16 that DuPage County in Illinois is the 4<sup>th</sup> Illinois county to find EAB. The DuPage infestation is located at a shopping mall.

The map above shows northeastern Illinois with green trees/triangles are the known infestations and red denoting the original quarantine boundaries. The green stars show the two new infestations.

Effective July 19, Illinois quarantined all or portions of 18 counties in northeastern Illinois (map at right from Illinois Department of Agriculture), the red lines indicates the new expanded quarantine boundary.



**Elm Sawfly** – this insect was reported defoliating willow in Shawano County but is probably present in many other counties around NER. This large sawfly (right) is the largest sawfly found in North America and has the disturbing habit of falling out of trees when you walk under the tree. Larvae grow 1 ½ - 2 inches long and are a bright yellow color with a black strip down their back.



Adults are a large dark brown sawfly (left). Usually defoliation is localized to a single tree or group of trees. Spraying a general insecticide or soapy water should kill these sawflies if you think control is warranted but these late season



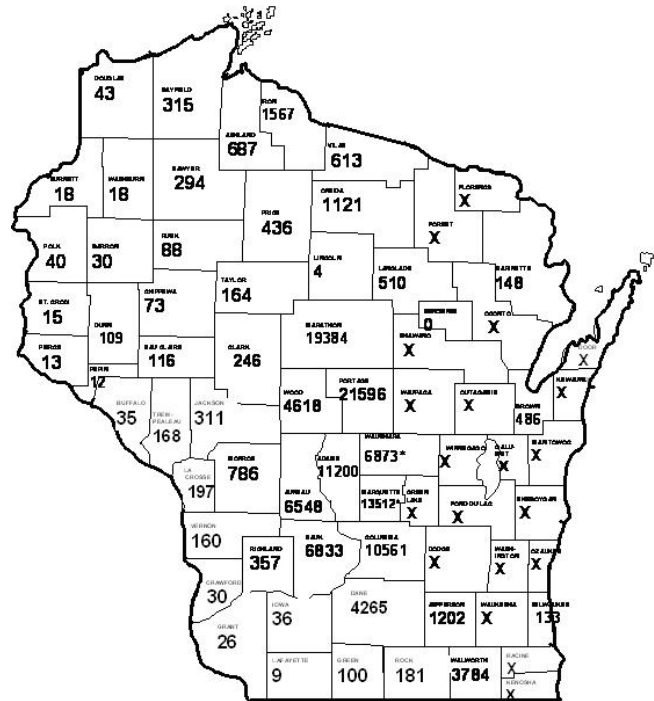
Photo by Kay Brockman-Maderas

defoliators rarely do serious damage to the trees that they defoliate.

**Gypsy moth** – from Bill McNee - this year's moth flight is just about over, although there have been a few reports of flight still occurring in central counties and in the north. Counties along the Mississippi River have seen a dramatic increase in trap catches compared to prior years, although traps with moths are still catching 1-2 moths. This is the first year that all Wisconsin counties with a gypsy moth trapping grid caught moths (trap catch at right).

Aerial surveys detected about 23,000 acres of defoliation, with nearly all being in central Marinette County. Adams, Green Lake, Juneau and Marquette Counties also saw small patches of defoliation this year. These counties, along with Dane, Wood, and Marathon Counties, are likely to be next year's greatest problem areas.

At present there is still no news on the amount of cost share funding available for next year's suppression program.



**Jack Pine Budworm in Red Pine in Oneida County** – a recent site visit to western Oneida County found multiple stands of red pine being defoliated by Jack Pine Budworm (right). Affected red pine stands ranged in age from 18-60. Thinning foliage, slightly off-color foliage, and red needles webbed to the branches are signs of budworm in red pine. A quick eggmass survey indicated that defoliation will be significant next year. Further eggmass surveys will be conducted.



**Japanese Beetles** – these exotic invasive insects are showing up in most NER counties including Door, Oconto, and Brown. Japanese beetle adults (left) feed on the flowers and leaves of over 300 species of plants including trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants. They can do significant defoliation. University of Wisconsin Extension has a fact sheet available at <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort/gardenfacts/X1062.pdf> which gives lots of information on the damage caused by the adults, the damage caused by the white grubs, and what control measures are useful. These insects are sometimes mistaken for EAB because they have some metallic green coloring near their heads.



**Linden Wart Gall Midge** – this gall (right) is showing up on the undersides of Basswood leaves in Door County and Manitowoc County. I have one book that mentions this insect and it says this: tiny white larvae drop to the ground to pupate, later the empty galls become brown, hard, and woody. The biology of this species has not been studied and in fact the adult midge is not known. Sorry folks, that’s all I’ve got.



Photo by Sue Crowley

**Pear sawfly on cherry** – pear sawfly (or pear slug sawfly) is a small sawfly that feeds by scraping off one surface of the leaf, leaving the veins and giving the leaf a lacy skeletonized appearance. They feed on cherry, pear, hawthorn and occasionally other species, in Manitowoc County they were feeding on cherry. This year many insect populations seem to be about 2 weeks ahead of normal so the pear sawflies that you’re seeing on the leaves now could be the second generation already. Control is easily achieved by spraying the sawflies with a soapy water mixture.



Photo by Jerry Payne USDA

**Sirex Woodwasp found in MI** – on July 16 Michigan Department of Agriculture announced that they had collected a Sirex Woodwasp from a trap. This insect is an exotic insect, native to Europe, Asia, and parts of Africa and is a potentially serious pest of pines. It was first detected in New York in 2004 but has since been found in New York, Pennsylvania, Ontario, Canada, and now Michigan. Woodwasps attack trees by laying eggs under the bark and also inserting spores of canker rot fungi which begin to decay the tree even as the larvae are burrowing through the wood.



Our native woodwasp, the Pigeon Tremex or Pigeon Horntail (left), has been reported from several counties in NER this year. Pigeon Horntail attacks stressed and dying hardwoods. In this area the favorite species is maple but we have a lot of dying hickory in this area and I’m finding Pigeon Horntails attacking those trees as well.

**Spruce budworm** – on a recent site visit to Washington Island I was shown the stand at right which was a small stand of blue and white spruce that was defoliated by spruce budworm this spring. The defoliation was quite complete as the photo shows and the landowner indicated that budworm really enjoys blue spruce.



## Diseases:

This is a great year for insects, sorry, no diseases to share for this update.

## Other:

**Drought Conditions** – lack of rainfall is creating problems for some trees. Young plantations where trees have minimal root systems are being affected as well as some areas of mature trees. Aspen and birch are beginning to drop some of their leaves in response to the drought. Some branch mortality on Northern Pin Oak caused by Two Lined Chestnut Borer is showing up. I also noticed a few young white with wilted needles.

**Firewood Rule Webpage** – there is a new webpage for the WI DNR Firewood Rule. There is expanded information on this page including types of wood allowed and pictures to help with the explanations. Check it out at <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/firewood/index.htm>

**New Forest Health Employee starting in Rhinelander** – the Northern Region Forest Health position located in Rhinelander has been vacant for a number of years but beginning August 20 it will be filled by Brian Schwingle! Welcome Brian!

**Forest Health Webpage Address Update** – the forest health webpage is now located at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/> please update your bookmarks so you can find our pages!

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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.