

Northeast Wisconsin Forest Pest Update – 10/15/07

Topics covered this month:

Insects:

Emerald Ash Borer
Gypsy Moth
Introduced Pine Sawfly
Red Pine Mortality from Bark Beetles

Diseases:

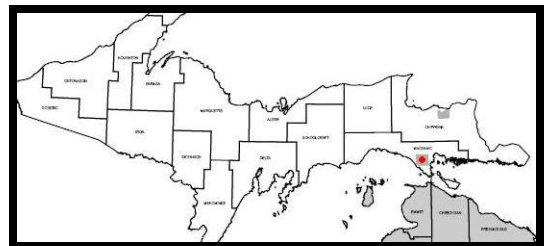
Eutypella Canker

Other:

Black Ash Swamps – Declining or Recovering?

Insects:

Emerald Ash Borer update – from Bill McNee, NER Gypsy Moth Suppression Coordinator. Unfortunately, EAB has been rediscovered in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. A detection tree near Moran (red dot on map at right), about 10 miles north of the Mackinac Bridge, was found to contain larvae. Michigan Dept. of Agriculture staff will be delimiting the infestation and determine how to proceed based on the survey results.



After several years of study, parasitoid wasps from Asia have been released in Michigan in an attempt to help control EAB. The wasps are tiny and lay their eggs in EAB eggs or larvae, ultimately killing the EAB life stage. For more information, visit <http://www.mlive.com/news/grpress/index.ssf?/base/news-38/1190443252131970.xml&coll=6&thispage=1>

Detection tree peeling in Wisconsin's state parks and forests will be conducted in October. Some of the trees were girdled this year, while others were girdled in 2006. No EAB adults were found on the sticky bands of these trees this summer.

According to media reports, EAB scams continue to occur in infested states. Homeowners are being told that their trees are infested and then charged hundreds of dollars to remove the trees. In one case, an 'infested' tree was actually a maple, which is immune to EAB. For a recent report, visit <http://www.wlwt.com/news/14246746/detail.html>

Gypsy moth – from Bill McNee. Now is the time to be out sampling gypsy moth egg mass numbers to determine whether or not the gypsy moth will be a problem next year. Sampling methods to predict next year's defoliation levels can be found at <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov> Homeowners who are finding many masses should report it to their community government as soon as is practical. Egg masses (right) can be treated with a dormant oil to suffocate the eggs, or wait until the winter and scrape the egg mass off into soapy water (in case the community surveys the neighborhood in October or November). Larger landowners can hire an aerial applicator or participate in



Old eggmass on right, new eggmass on left.

the DNR gypsy moth suppression program, which is administered by participating counties. For local contacts, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/gm/coordinators.htm>. Interested individuals should contact their county as soon as practical, because counties must submit spray applications to the DNR by December 7, 2007.

Currently, Marinette County and central Wisconsin (Dane County north to Marathon County) are expected to have the greatest gypsy moth problems in 2008. In NER, Marinette, Marquette, Green Lake, and Waushara Counties should be most affected.

Introduced pine sawfly – This insect was first found in the US in 1914 and was first found in WI in 1944. Introduced pine sawfly is a pretty black and yellow larvae that feeds on white pine. They usually feed as a solitary larvae, not in groups like other sawflies do. This insect can sometimes be quite damaging to the tree because the first generation of sawflies feed in the spring on the older needles but the second generation can feed on older needles as well as current year needles, effectively defoliating the trees. This year the populations seem small. For more info



check out http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/fidls/intro_sawfly/intro_sawfly.htm

Red Pine Mortality from bark beetles – the photo at right shows what can happen when you stack fresh red pine logs near standing red pine and don't remove the logs promptly during the time when bark beetles are out and active. In this instance the bark beetle populations were allowed to build up in the logs and after they exhausted the resources in the cut logs they moved to the next closest red pine trees and attacked them.



Photo by Ben Baumgart

Diseases:

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. In response, the tree produces callus tissue in an attempt to grow over the wound. The fungus is perennial and attacks the tree a little each year, so each year the tree responds with callus tissue growth which eventually creates a large distorted canker face. Dead bark remains attached to the canker face (right). Cankered areas are weak areas of the tree and the tree may break at this point. Removal of cankered trees is the most common control method. If the cankered portions of the tree are left in the woods it is recommended that they be placed canker-face down so that any spores will fall harmlessly to the forest floor.



Other:

Black Ash Swamps - Declining or Recovering? – at the recent North Central Forest Pest Workshop one of the speakers posed the following question: are black ash swamps declining or are they recovering? Many black ash swamps in the Lakes States look very poor. Many of the trees show substantial crown dieback and the only green leaves to be found are on epicormic branches along the main stem. But, many of these stands maintain this state year after year, not appearing to decline further or to significantly improve. So, are the trees in these stands declining or are they recovering? If any of you manage black ash swamps and have an opinion on whether your stands are declining or recovering please drop me an email, I'm interested to hear what you think.

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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.