

Northeast Wisconsin Forest Pest Update – 9/15/08

Topics covered this month:

Insects:

Birch Catkin Feeder
Emerald Ash Borer
Giant Willow Aphid
Gypsy Moth
Ladybugs
Oak Gall
Oak Slug Sawfly
White Birch Mortality

Diseases:

Rhizospaera Needlecast

Other:

Firewood further restricted on Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest
Red Pine fall color

Insects:

Birch Catkin Feeder – a sample of this small insect (1/8 inch) was received from Brown County. In late summer and fall, Birch Catkin Feeder (*Kleidocerys resedae*) can be found feeding on birch seeds. Since they feed just on the seeds their damage to the tree is minimal and unless you're attempting to produce a lot of seed from birch, control is not necessary.



Emerald Ash Borer – from Bill McNee. The DNR's silvicultural recommendations for woodlot owners have been updated to reflect the Wisconsin EAB finds, and are available at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/PDF/EABWIManagementGuidelines.pdf>. Woodlot owners in the four quarantined counties (Fond du Lac, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, and Washington) with a substantial proportion of ash should consult a forester to determine whether they should change their harvesting plans. Outside of these four counties, recommendations remain the same in that landowners with a substantial proportion of ash should reduce the ash component over one or more stand entries.

Delimitation survey of infested areas - Sometime this month, Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) survey crews are expected to start the detailed delimitation survey to determine the extent of the EAB infestations in Ozaukee and Washington Counties. This survey is expected to take several months to complete. EAB adults will not emerge from infested trees until next summer.

Quarantine concerns - Below is a map of the two known EAB finds and the four quarantined counties, download it at:

<http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov/pdf/WIEABQuarantine.pdf>

The DATCP quarantine in these counties restricts the movement of ash logs, ash nursery stock, hardwood firewood, and any other ash products that could transport EAB from leaving the quarantined counties. This quarantine affects logging operations, since it prohibits the movement of logs out of the four county quarantined area unless treated to prevent EAB spread.

DATCP has provided the first information on what will be required to move ash logs and other articles from the four county EAB quarantined area. An easy to use guide on the regulations can be found at:

<http://emeraldashborer.wi.gov/pdf/EasyGuideEABRegulations.pdf>.

Foresters wanting to move ash logs or other restricted articles from the quarantined area should contact Bob Dahl, DATCP Regulatory Supervisor, by calling 608-224-4573.

Reporting EAB - Suspect EAB infestations can be reported to DATCP by calling **1-800-462-2803**. DATCP and/or DNR staff will visit symptomatic sites.



Giant Willow Aphid – some willow trees in Kewaunee, Brown, and Oconto Counties are just loaded with Giant Willow Aphid this year. These aphids are a very large aphid, nearly a ¼ inch long! Which is huge for an aphid! The populations have been building up all summer and the trees are covered (willow twig at right). These insects insert their mouthparts into the twigs and suck the sap from the tree. Usually what people notice first is either the sticky honeydew that rains down from the tree, covering everything underneath, or they notice that the tree is humming with many wasps and hornets. The wasps and hornets are attracted to the tree because of the aphids, which they will carry away to eat. Some willow trees are dropping leaves early due to the stress caused by so many aphids sucking the sap of the tree.



Gypsy Moth – from Bill McNee. Now that the adult gypsy moths are gone, property owners should look for the newly-produced egg masses to predict the population size next year. The newly-produced egg masses are tan-colored lumps about the size of a nickel or quarter, and feel firm. Older egg masses appear faded; some may feel hard due to poor hatching this spring but most should feel soft if touched. Most masses will be found on tree trunks and the undersides of branches, but they can also be found on buildings, firewood, vehicles, and other outdoor objects. Homeowners with egg masses on yard trees can remove or oil those within reach to help reduce next year's population. However, wait until the winter to remove the egg masses if you may be in a spray block next year. Pictures of egg masses, and instructions on conducting egg mass surveys, are available by visiting the DNR gypsy moth website, <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov>.

The DNR offers aerial suppression spraying to communities and landowners that are suffering from outbreak populations of gypsy moth. The suppression program is offered through participating county governments, and the deadline for counties to apply for next year's spraying is December 5, 2008. Program details and a list of county coordinators and municipal contacts are available online at: <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov>. Large landowners and communities interested in spraying next year should contact their county coordinator by mid-October.

Beginning this year, DNR properties will apply directly to the suppression program through a 'bureau coordinator' in the central office. Program responsibilities are the same as for non-DNR lands, and local property managers will do most of the setup work. Each bureau's coordinator needs to receive a map of proposed spray areas by October 1. DNR staff can contact Bill McNee (bill.mcnee@wisconsin.gov) or their bureau for assistance.



Gypsy moth eggmasses. Old eggmass on right, new eggmass on left.

Ladybugs – be prepared for the ladybugs! As fall approaches our exotic ladybugs, the Multicolored Asian Ladybeetles, will start to congregate, looking for a place to spend the winter. Krista Hamilton, WI DATCP Entomologist, reports that soybean aphid populations (a major food source for ladybugs) have not collapsed yet this year, which is not normal for this aphid. I have been out in my neighbor's soybean fields and have noticed the same thing, and I'm also seeing LOTS of ladybugs feeding on these aphids. What this means is that the food source for ladybugs has been good this year so the ladybug populations should be healthy this year. The first hard frost or freeze of the season will trigger the Multicolored Asian Ladybeetles to seek out overwintering spots (including your house). The UW Extension fact sheet on the exotic ladybugs, which includes control recommendations, can be found at <http://wihort.uwex.edu/gardenfacts/x1050.pdf>

Oak gall – this oak gall was found on a swamp white oak in Manitowoc County. You'll notice the scale items in the photo are a quarter and a fifty cent piece, this is a large gall! When you look closely you'll see that the gall is actually multi-lobed and when it arrived in my office each woody lobe had separated from the rest. Since I'd never seen this gall before I sent the photos around and Joe Boggs, with Ohio State University, was able to shed some light on this intriguing gall. Joe replied that this is likely the Pine Cone Oak Gall, formed by a gall wasp (probably *Cynips strobilana*), and there will be one wasp larvae in each lobe. The gall does not grow into the stem, thus no real damage is done to the tree.



Photo by Wayne and Leslie Wallander

Oak Slug Sawfly - this small, slimy-looking sawfly was defoliating oak in Shawano County. The damage is not usually widespread but can be significant on single trees. These sawflies feed on the undersides of leaves eating the material between veins. Native enemies usually keep the populations in check, additionally, the defoliation is occurring late in the



season so no control is necessary. If pesticides are used they must be general insecticides (not Bt) since this is a sawfly, not a caterpillar.

White Birch Mortality – widespread mortality of white birch across the northern portions of the state is due to Bronze Birch Borer attacking trees that are under drought stress. For the last 3 summers the northwoods have had summer droughts. This amount of continued stress has allowed our native insect, the Bronze Birch Borer, to start attacking and killing trees. These attacks should stop when the trees recover from these stresses. Unfortunately, late summer in the northwoods this year has also been quite dry. Bronze Birch Borer damage can sometimes be noticed as sinuous bumps and lines in the bark (photo).



Photo by Steve Katovich, USFS

Diseases:

Rhizosphaera Needlecast - spruce trees around the region are losing their older needles to this needle disease. Needles from the current year are not affected but when the older needles are lost the trees look quite sparse. Lower branches will be more affected than branches in the crown (right). The Rhizosphaera fungus lives within the needle and closer inspection will reveal tiny black dots emerging from the stoma in the needle (below). Raking up fallen needles will help to limit the amount of fungus available to re-infect the needles next spring.



Not all trees are affected equally by Rhizosphaera. Some spruce trees are slightly resistant to this needlecast (white spruce is listed as having "intermediate" resistance), some trees have



slightly better

airflow around them which dries out the needles faster so that the fungus cannot grow into the needles, this is why the tops of trees will be less affected the lower branches. Additionally, some trees are genetically resistant to Rhizosphaera. If you have a plantation with just a few trees that are severely affected by Rhizosphaera you might consider removing just those trees as they will probably be affected by Rhizosphaera for much of their life.

Other:

Firewood further restricted on Chequamegon-Nicolet – firewood is no longer allowed into the National Forest if it originates from South of Hwy 29. The previous rule of “no firewood from out-of-state” still stands as well.

Red Pine Fall Color – don't forget that pine trees also have fall color. Pines drop their older needles, which turn yellow, red, or brown, and then drop off. This may be happening a bit early in the north this year as the trees continue to be under drought stress. As long as it's only the oldest, inner needles of pines that are dying, you can rest assured it's normal needle drop.

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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.