

# Northeast Wisconsin Forest Pest Update

April 15, 2009

## Topics covered this month:

### Insects:

EAB Another WI Infestation  
EAB Are you thinking of treating your trees  
EAB Awareness Week  
EAB field guide  
EAB Milwaukee to treat trees  
EAB Wisconsin EAB website  
Reporting EAB  
Flatheaded appletree borer  
Gypsy moths will start hatching soon  
Gypsy moth slow-the-spread treatment maps available  
Gypsy moth calls this summer  
Spotted appletree borer

### Diseases:

Armillaria  
Oak wilt restrictions

### Other:

none

## Insects

**EAB - Another Wisconsin infestation** –from Bill McNee - EAB has been found in Vernon County in western Wisconsin. A property owner reported the infestation in the small community of Victory and it was confirmed as EAB in early April. This infestation is right on the Mississippi River (right) and there is a lot of ash in the riverway. The Iowa state line is several hundred yards across the river and Minnesota is about 1 mile upriver, making it likely that one or both states also has EAB. Here's the official announcement:



EAB infested trees near Victory. Photo by Mick Skworak.

[http://datcp.state.wi.us/press\\_release/result.jsp?prid=2296](http://datcp.state.wi.us/press_release/result.jsp?prid=2296). All three states are actively looking for signs of the pest in the area. The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel has a lengthy article on the find, available at: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/42603362.html>.

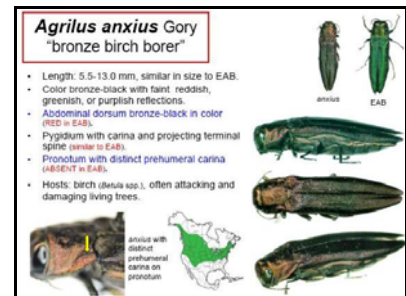
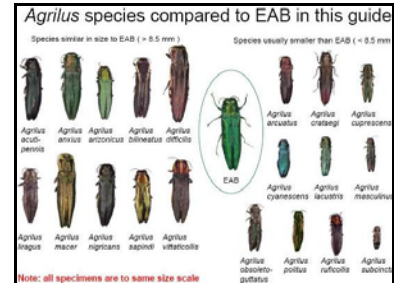
**EAB - Are you thinking of treating your ash trees?** – from Bill McNee - here are the current treatment recommendations from UW Extension.

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/sheboygan/documents/XHT1181EABHomeownerInsecticideTreatments.pdf> Most insecticides are applied to the tree between mid-April and mid-May. The current recommendation is to treat only within 10-12 miles of a known EAB infestation.

**EAB Awareness Week** – will be May 17-23. Stay tuned for more details.

**EAB field guide** – a new guide produced by Gary Parsons of Michigan State University is available to help you distinguish EAB from other Agrilus beetles and other green beetles and it's a very nice document! Titled EAB A Guide to Identification and Comparison to Other Species it's a big file (5M) but if you have the time to download it it's quite comprehensive

<http://www.arc.ent.msu.edu/PDFs/EAB%20ID%20GUIDE%202008.pdf> Two pages from the document are shown here as a sample. I was amazed at how many other beetles look kind of like EAB so if you find something that you suspect is EAB don't hesitate to send it to us for positive ID!



**EAB look-a-like** – I recently received the beetle at left. The person who found it had called me concerned that it was EAB.



After asking him what I thought were all the right questions I still couldn't figure out what insect he had so I asked him to send it to me. He had told me that he burned wood so I was certain that it was something that came in with his wood. But after getting the beetle I was perplexed. I couldn't find any beetles like this in the eastern US but I found one in the western US that matched, the buprestid beetle *Chrysophana placida*. I called him back and explained that although

there was a similar looking beetle in the western US that there was nothing in the eastern US that looked quite like this so I would have to send it in for positive ID. That's when he told me that he'd recently been hiking in the mountains of California. Sometimes you never know what tidbit of information will help you to identify an insect. I'm guessing that the beetle got stuck in some article of clothing or hiking gear and he simply brought it back with him. Mystery solved.

**EAB - Milwaukee to treat trees** – from Bill McNee - EAB has not been found in the city of Milwaukee, but they are taking active steps to treat all of their city-owned ash trees with insecticide. Here's the link: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/42749267.html>. Approximately 32,000 ash trees will be treated with 'Treeäge' over the next two years at a cost of about \$600,000 per year. The village of Cedarburg in Ozaukee County began treating village-owned ash trees last year and will treat about 1,600 ash trees this year.

**EAB - Wisconsin EAB website** – If you haven't checked out the new and improved Wisconsin EAB website you should! If you ever had trouble finding things or navigating through the old

website you'll find the new one much more user friendly, even though portions are still being worked on, check it out at [www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov](http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov).

**Reporting EAB** – If you suspect that you have found EAB please call the hotline at 1-800-462-2803. Reports and/or digital photos of suspicious insects/trees can also be emailed to [DATCPEmeraldAshBorer@wi.gov](mailto:DATCPEmeraldAshBorer@wi.gov). DATCP and/or DNR staff will visit symptomatic sites. For more information on EAB, visit the state's website, [www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov](http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov). For compliance agreements and quarantine issues you can contact Bob Dahl at [Robert.Dahl@wi.gov](mailto:Robert.Dahl@wi.gov).

**Flatheaded appletree borer** – this insect, despite its name, can attack ash trees. Flatheaded appletree borer



Photo by James Solomon

(*Chrysobothris femorata*) is a native insect that can attack a number of different hosts when the trees are put under stress. They make winding galleries under the bark which are more nebulous or more blob-shaped (yes I'm sure that's a technical term!) than EAB galleries. When they exit the tree they leave a nice large oval hole (above), very different from EAB, and the larvae has a very distinctive enlarged head (photo right), again very unlike EAB. If you've ever seen this on a tree and couldn't quite decide if the exit hole was oval or D-shaped try this helpful



hint – shave off some of the outer layers of bark so that you're looking at a nice flat surface of the exit hole, this should make it more clear what shape the hole is.

**Gypsy moths will start hatching soon** – from Bill McNee - Homeowners who are interested in reducing gypsy moth populations should consider oiling or removing egg masses before they hatch in late April or early May. A number of horticultural oils that suffocate the eggs are available at nurseries, garden centers and large retailers. Several homeowners I've talked to have said that oiling prevents hatch even if applied within days of hatching. If removing egg masses, scrape them into a bucket of soapy water and then let them soak for a few days before discarding in the trash. Additional management options for homeowners and woodlot owners are available at [www.gypsymoth.wi.gov](http://www.gypsymoth.wi.gov).



Newly hatched larvae on gypsy moth egg mass. Photo by Bill McNee.

Homeowners interested in arranging for insecticide treatments this spring should contact an arborist or tree service as soon as possible. The Wisconsin Arborist Association has a list of certified arborists available at [www.waa-isa.org](http://www.waa-isa.org). Additional businesses offering insecticide treatments may be found in the phone book under 'Tree Service.' Woodlot owners may still be able to hire an aerial applicator to spray this spring. A list of applicators is available by emailing Bill McNee ([bill.mcnee@wisconsin.gov](mailto:bill.mcnee@wisconsin.gov)).

**Gypsy moth Slow-The-Spread Treatment maps available** – from Bill McNee - Maps of the Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's 'Slow-The-Spread' treatments

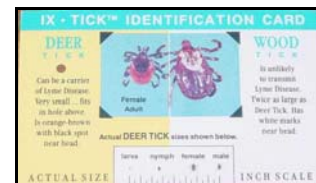
are now available at [www.gypsymoth.wi.gov](http://www.gypsymoth.wi.gov). These treatments are all in the western counties, in an approximate line running from Bayfield County south to Grant County. When viewing the website's county maps, click on the blocks to see a more detailed map. Maps of the DNR Suppression Program's treatment areas are also available on this site. DNR's aerial spraying occurs between mid-May and early June.

**Gypsy moth calls this summer** – from Bill McNee - If you receive gypsy moth calls this summer, feel free to refer them to [www.gypsymoth.wi.gov](http://www.gypsymoth.wi.gov) or to 1-800-642-MOTH for assistance. The vast majority of questions can be answered by these sources. Callers interested in aerial spraying in 2010 should be referred to their municipal or county government to report the infestation. A list of contacts in most quarantined counties is available from the above website, in the 'DNR Suppression Spray Program' link.

**Spotted appletree borer** - This pretty longhorned beetle, *Saperda cretata*, attacks apple and crabapple and occasionally hawthorn and serviceberry. Adult emergence begins in late May but when the wood sits in my office apparently the emergence date is earlier! Adults feed on leaves and bark of new twigs before mating and laying eggs. The larvae bore under the bark and create winding galleries, taking 2 years to complete development. As the larvae get bigger they bore deeper into the wood. Infested limbs eventually die or break off due to the tunneling throughout the wood. This borer causes damage similar to the flatheaded appletree borer (which is what I originally identified the sample as).



**Ticks** – ticks are out now! If anyone needs Tick ID Cards (right) which compare a Deer Tick with a Wood Tick I have some available and will order more if needed. Let me know how many you would like.



## Diseases

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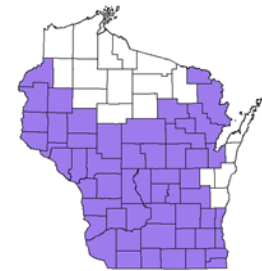
**Armillaria** – I recently received some samples of red pine from Marinette County. This stand was located on an excessively well drained sandy site, and when combined with the summer droughts of previous years Armillaria was able to attack the trees. Even though many of the trees still had a lot of green on them (right) they were as good as dead. Peeling the bark from the base of the tree showed nice development of the white mycelial fan.



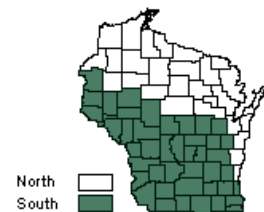
Armillaria is an opportunistic fungus that lives in the soil until a tree becomes stressed enough for the fungus to be able to attack and colonize the roots of the tree. Armillaria can infect many different species of trees and trees of any age or size but the end result is usually a slow decline and eventual death of the tree.

**Oak Wilt restrictions** – it's that time of year again. The time when you should not prune, wound, or harvest your oaks if oak wilt is a concern in your area. Oak wilt is a fungal disease specific to oaks that is fatal for oaks in the red oak family. It is spread in 2 ways, overland by beetles, and underground through grafted root systems. The beetles that can spread this disease are attracted to fresh wounds where they feed on the sap and may accidentally leave some oak wilt spores as they feed. The pruning restrictions are aimed at limiting this overland spread of the disease by minimizing the number of fresh wounds that attract the beetles.

The time period that is considered the highest risk for overland spread of the disease is April 1 – July 15 for the southern portions of the state and April 15 – July 15 in the northern areas of the state (see map at right). During this high risk time period you should try not to prune, wound, or harvest oaks. If you are located within a city please check with your municipality to verify the restriction period since some cities and towns have extended their restriction period to include most of the growing season. For more information check out the DNR Forest Health Website and click on Oak Wilt on the left side of the page <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh>



Counties with confirmed oak wilt are shaded.



## Other/Misc.

none

**New mailing address for the Green Bay office** – please update your address books! Effective immediately, we will no longer be using the P.O. Box for our mail. We will now use the street address for all of our mail.

**Wisconsin DNR**

**2984 Shawano Ave**

**Green Bay, WI 54313-6727**

**NOTE: THE ZIP CODE FOR THE STREET ADDRESS (above) IS DIFFERENT FROM THE PO BOX ZIP CODE.**

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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.