Northeast Wisconsin Forest Pest Update

February 16, 2009

Topics covered this month:

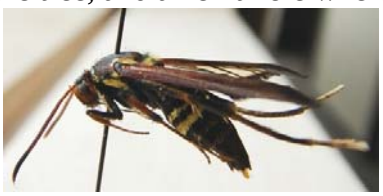
Insects:
Clearwing Ash Borer
EAB Pesticide Fact Sheet
EAB Surveys Nationwide
EAB Surveys in WI
EAB Tree Peeling Used Effectively
EAB Workshop
EAB Workshops in the works
EAB Who to Report it to
Gypsy Moth

Diseases:
Bacterial Leaf Scorch
White Pine Blister Rust

Other:
Garlic Mustard and Phragmites educational videos

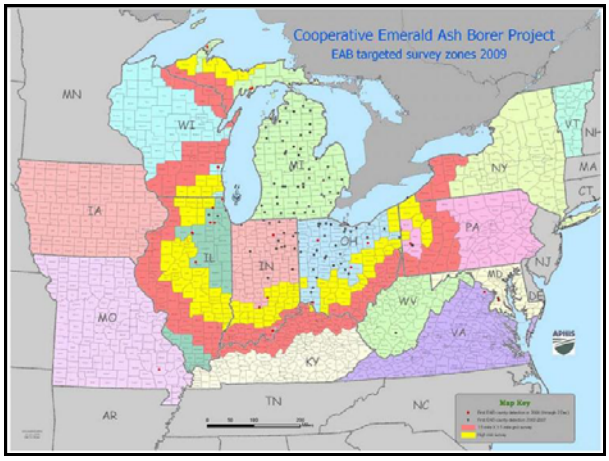
Insects

Clearwing Ash Borer – many people assume that if an ash tree dies that it must be Emerald Ash Borer that killed the tree. Although EAB does a great job of killing ash we do have some native pests that can attack ash as well. Both Clearwing Ash Borer (*Podosesia syringae*) and Banded Ash Clearwing (*Podosesia aureocincta*) are native wood-boring caterpillars (left) that attack ash by boring under the bark in the cambium layer. Galleries under the bark usually have a horizontal portion and a vertical portion, creating an 'L' shape and there will eventually be 2 holes associated with each gallery, an entrance hole where frass, sawdust, and sap will ooze from the tree, and an exit hole where the adult will emerge when the lifecycle is complete. Adults look similar to a wasp (left) but are actually a clearwing moth. As adults emerge through the bark they leave the pupal case sticking out of the bark (above). Adults in this area usually emerge in late summer (August/September). Adults prefer to lay eggs on open-grown ash and urban ash trees and they will choose an ash that has been recently pruned or stressed if they can find one.



EAB Pesticide fact sheet - UW Extension has updated its fact sheet on insecticide treatments for EAB, available at: http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort/gardenfacts/XHT1185.doc.

EAB Surveys Nationwide – from Bill McNee. This year's EAB surveys will be different from 2008, as the Federal government is no longer funding detection tree surveys. The current proposal calls for approximately 9,500 purple traps to be placed in Wisconsin as part of a national survey plan. The national plan aims to survey outside the infested areas to better define the leading edge of the pest's distribution (red and yellow counties on the map), as well as surveying at other high risk sites statewide (Michigan counties shaded in green on the map as well as the Wisconsin counties where EAB has been detected - Ozaukee, Washington and Kenosha Counties).



EAB Surveys in WI – from Bill McNee. Visual surveys continue in the vicinity of Newburg, where Wisconsin's first known emerald ash borer infestation was discovered last summer. Recently, these surveys located additional infested trees a little over 2 miles north of Newburg. The infestation seems to be distributed along the Milwaukee River channel, which is a natural dispersal corridor for the adult beetles. The survey is expected to be completed in March. The most recent situation report (# 8) from the Newburg area can be found at http://emeraldashborer.wi.gov/pdf/EABICSSitRep8.pdf .

EAB tree peeling used effectively – from Bill McNee. An interesting memo regarding EAB detections in Homewood, Illinois has been circulating throughout Forest Health and Urban Forestry networks. To summarize, Homewood's city forester has found that that upper canopy branches of 1-5" diameter from infested and "heavily" infested trees do not have many, if any, larva (or "D"-shaped holes). Branches measuring 6 inches and larger in diameter have produced larvae consistently so peeling efforts could be focused on these sized branches. Researchers in Michigan have come to similar conclusions, you can read their recommendations in the document titled Using Girdled Trap Trees Effectively For EAB Delimitation And Survey at http://www.emeraldashborer.info/files/handoutforpdf.pdf

EAB Workshop - Dane County will be hosting a workshop on EAB For Tree Care Professionals on Tuesday, Feb 24, free of charge and lunch included. For more information, contact Anna Willow, Dane County Invasive Species Planner, willow@co.dane.wi.us or check out the agenda at http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/forestry/UF/eab/pdf/EABSeminarAnnouncement.pdf

EAB Workshops in the works – from Bill McNee. Wisconsin will be receiving federal grant funds from USDA Forest Service to support some EAB activities in the quarantine area in 2009. Emphasis will be on workshops that demonstrate tree removal, transport and utilization options, sustainable forest management, EAB detection and identification, pesticide options, etc. More details to follow in future Pest Updates.

EAB – Who to Report it to – 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 eab@datcp.state.wi.us. DATCP and/or DNR staff will visit symptomatic sites. For more information on EAB, visit the state's website, www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov. For compliance agreements and quarantine issues you can contact Bob Dahl at Robert.Dahl@wi.gov.

Gypsy Moth – from Bill McNee. Maps of the DNR Gypsy Moth Suppression Program's proposed aerial spray sites are now available at www.gypsymoth.wi.gov. Approximately 10,800 acres are scheduled for treatment in 23 counties. Site-specific maps of the Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's Slow-The-Spread treatment areas will be available in March once funding is finalized, although the website currently shows the western Wisconsin counties in which Slow-The-Spread treatments will occur.

I have been receiving reports of landowners interested in hiring an applicator to spray their woodlot or neighborhood this spring. If you would like an applicator list to give callers, email bill.mcnee@wisconsin.gov (DNR forestry staff should already have this list). For yard tree treatments, look in the phone book under 'Tree Service' and visit the Wisconsin Arborist Association website, www.waa-isa.org, and search the directory of 'Certified Arborists For Hire.' Encourage callers to look and see what level of gypsy moth infestation they have before they hire someone. Instructions on conducting egg mass surveys are available at www.gypsymoth.wi.gov. The sooner they look, the more time they will have to make arrangements for treatment.

Diseases

Bacterial Leaf Scorch – from Kyoko Scanlon. Last summer, Wisconsin participated in the survey supported by the U.S. Forest Service to investigate the geographic distribution and host range of Bacterial Leaf Scorch (BLS) in north central states. Leaf and twig samples were collected from symptomatic trees throughout southern and central Wisconsin and sent to a lab at Michigan State University to perform a genetic test. Out of 13 samples in 11 sites, 2 out of the 3 bur oak samples collected from the same site in Dane County were tested positive for BLS. This is the first confirmed case of bacterial leaf scorch in Wisconsin. The tests were repeated twice in the same lab, and the positive samples will be tested in a separate lab for confirmation. The Wisconsin DNR plans to collect more samples with similar leaf symptoms to evaluate the extent of this disease in 2009.

BLS is caused by the bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa*. Hosts include oak, maple, elm, ash, and other deciduous trees. The pathogen lives in the xylem vessels of host plants. Infected leaves exhibit scorch symptoms with irregular margins. The pathogen is transmitted by xylem-feeding insects, such as leafhoppers and treehoppers. The disease has been found throughout the east, southeast, and some mid-west states. For more info, and photos, check out http://urbanext.illinois.edu/hortanswers/detailproblem.cfm?PathogenID=84

White fungus on cedar – last summer Sue Crowley sent me these photos of a white fungus that she'd found that seemed to be creeping up the base of cedar trees. I had never seen this before and sent the photos to Kyoko who requested a sample and forwarded it to Dan Lindner with USFS Forest Mycology Research. Dan identified this fungus as *Sebacina incrustans*, a mycorrhizal fungus (i.e., a beneficial fungus). Dan also gave the following information: this species is very common on plant roots but you rarely see the fruiting body (or at least, I rarely see it!). The fruiting body is a crust that grows up out of the ground, and not surprisingly, "encrusts" almost anything it comes in contact with (living herbaceous plants, wood, live trees, etc.). It's interesting to know it was more gelatinous when you first saw it, because although it forms a crust as the fruiting body, *Sebacina* is a "jelly fungus", so the fruiting body is somewhat rubbery or gelatinous when fresh.

White pine blister rust – white pine blister rust is a non-native fungus that causes a canker on white pine. These cankers can girdle the branches and the main stem. During the spring of each year blister rust cankers produce orange pustules along the margins of the canker (right) which produce the spores of this fungus. This disease is specific to white pine and can infect white pines of all ages but the disease cannot be transmitted directly from one tree to another. Spores that are produced on white pine can only infect Ribes (gooseberry) plants. Later in the summer the infected gooseberry leaves will produce spores which can be blown from the gooseberry to a white pine where they can start a new infection on the white pine tree. So the fungus can only go from a white pine to ribes, and a ribes to white pine, it cannot spread directly from white pine to white pine.

Cankers caused by the fungus are usually sunken (right) and/or bleed a lot of sap (below). If you have just a few cankers on branches of young trees you should prune off those branches. By doing so you've just saved your tree (at least from that particular canker). If the branch canker is located close to the main stem it is possible that the fungus has already grown into the main stem, in which case a canker will eventually form on the main stem. Cankers on the main stem will eventually girdle the tree, although in healthy trees with good growth rates this may take many years.

Other/Misc.

Garlic Mustard and Phragmites educational videos – two 15-minute online videos are now available detailing the problem, identification, and control of two invasive plants: garlic mustard and phragmites. I found these videos to be very informative and well done. The garlic mustard video was created by Wisconsin Family Forests and can be found at http://www.in-sitevideo.com/wff/garlicmustard.html and the Phragmites video was produced in Michigan and can be found at http://peaine.org/environment/phragmites/video/ These videos are short enough to show at a meeting or to show to your neighborhood group to make people aware of the problem and what they can do about it. If you would like DVD copies of the two videos please contact Kelly Kearns at Kelly.Kearns@wi.gov

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.

Northeast Region Pest Update produced by:
Linda Williams
Forest Health Specialist
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - Northeast Region
Linda.Williams@wi.gov
http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/

For more information contact:
Bill McNee
NER Gypsy Moth Suppression Coordinator
920-662-5430
Bill.McNee@wi.gov

Linda Williams
NER Forest Health Specialist
920-662-5172
Linda.Williams@wi.gov

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.