

Northeast Wisconsin Forest Pest Update – 10/5/08

Topics covered this month:

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Insects:

EAB @ Newburg – the DNR Urban Forestry program recently organized 2 field days for municipal foresters and commercial arborists to see the damage, signs, and symptoms of EAB first hand at the Newburg site. Below are some photos from those days.



EAB S-shaped galleries under the bark.



D-shaped exit holes where adults have emerged



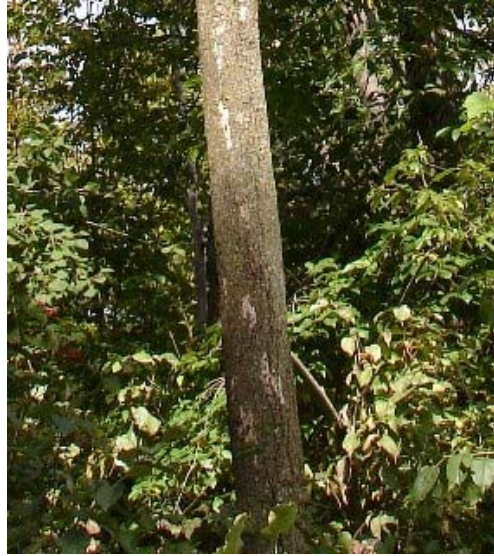
Bark crack, underneath is an EAB gallery



Dead and declining ash trees at the forested site.



EAB galleries under the bark.



Lighter areas on the bark are from woodpeckers flaking away the bark.

Emerald Ash Borer update – from Bill McNee. The examination of ash trees in the vicinity of the Newburg EAB find continues. Staff from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) completed a visual assessment of communities within a 10 mile radius of Newburg. Roughly 140 trees have been identified for closer examination, which is now in progress. EAB adults will not emerge from infested trees until next summer.

DATCP's destructive tree survey is also being conducted in a number of counties statewide, and to date no EAB larvae have been found outside of the Newburg area. The following counties have been completed without finding any EAB larvae (beyond Newburg): Dane, Winnebago, Fond du Lac, Ozaukee, Grant, Jefferson, Juneau and Sauk. Purple sticky traps placed around the state have also not found additional EAB infestations.

DNR and DATCP will be holding a meeting for communities in the quarantined area to address wood waste issues. The meeting will be Thursday, Oct 23 from 9:30 until noon at the Clairemont Inn in West Bend (2520 W. Washington St). The EAB quarantine in Ozaukee, Washington, Sheboygan, and Fond du Lac 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. An easy to use guide on the regulations can be found at: <http://emeraldashborer.wi.gov/pdf/EasyGuideEABRegulations.pdf>. Compliance agreements with wood processors have not yet been finalized. In the meantime, foresters wanting to move ash logs or other regulated articles from the quarantined area should contact Bob Dahl, DATCP Regulatory Supervisor, by calling 608-224-4573.

EAB in the UP – EAB was recently found in the central Upper Peninsula of Michigan near Garden Corner, approximately 15 miles west of Manistique. Illinois' northernmost infestation has also been announced, and it's only about 6 miles south of the Illinois-Wisconsin state line. The most recent EAB distribution map is available at: <http://www.dnr.wi.gov/Forestry/FH/pdf/EABdistribution.pdf>.

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. Visit www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov for further information on EAB and quarantines.

Gypsy Moth – from Bill McNee. September through November are good months to look for current-year 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 (photo); 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. Egg mass surveys are best done on sunny days, as the masses higher up in the tree can be very difficult to see when it's overcast.



New eggmass on left, old eggmass on right.

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 area 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>.

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 as soon as possible.

Ladybugs – people often mistakenly refer to the Multicolored Asian Ladybeetle as “that japanese beetle”, but the Japanese Beetle is a different critter altogether (see photos at right). The first frost/freeze of the season causes our exotic ladybugs to begin to think about finding a place to spend the winter. A nice warm protected place, like your house, would be a perfect place to spend the winter. After the first cold snap we often have an Indian Summer which allows the ladybugs time to seek out a place to spend the winter. This last weekend (October 11-12) may have been our Indian Summer. The ladybugs certainly thought so, and they congregated on houses around the state over the weekend.



Japanese Beetles above. Photo below shows Multicolored Asian Ladybeetles (ladybugs).

Preventative measures to keep ladybugs out of your home (either spraying or building them out of your house) must be done by the 2nd week of October with the prime period being the last week of September and the first week of October. After that time the ladybugs are probably already congregating in your house, or under the siding, or in the walls. UW Extension has a fact sheet about what can be done to prevent them from entering your house, including what you can spray on the outside of your house to



repel them. Check it out at <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort/gardenfacts/X1050.pdf>

Pigeon Horntail – sometimes called Pigeon Tremex this insect attacks stressed and dying hardwoods. I've received reports and samples from Washington Island, Door, Shawano, and Oconto Counties of adults laying eggs in trees. The large adults (right) lay their eggs in the wood of dead, dying, and diseased trees. In this area the favorite species is maple but this year we're finding them on beech and hickory as well. The female uses her ovipositor (the thing that looks like a stinger) to deposit eggs under the bark of trees. The female also deposits some fungal spores of the canker rot fungus *Cerrina unicolor* to help rot the wood where the larvae will be feeding. Larvae need the canker rot fungus to help decay the wood so that they can eat it. Mature larvae create a tunnel the diameter of a pencil. Larval galleries can be as short as 15mm or as long as 2 meters! In Wisconsin larvae take 2 years to complete development. Since pigeon tremex prefer dead, dying, or highly stressed trees they are not usually considered a pest.



Photo by Ryan Severson

Diseases:

Beech Bark Disease Management Guidelines available – the DNR has developed guidelines to help managers make better decisions when managing stands with beech. These guidelines can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/pdf/BBDManagementGuidelines0608.pdf>

Beech bark disease is a combination of a scale insect and a necrotic canker. Separately they rarely do damage, but together they are capable of killing beech trees. First the scale insects infest the tree bark (photo at left, pointing at many tiny fuzzy white scales). The scale insects insert their mouthparts into the bark and begin to suck sap. If this was all that happened the trees would be fine, but all those little feeding wounds allow Nectria fungus to get into the tree and start to create many cankers. This combination of scale feeding, followed by Nectria infection and cankers, is called Beech Bark Disease. The Nectria cankers may not get very big (right) but if you have hundreds of them on a tree these cankers can coalesce and effectively girdle the tree. There are 3 species of Nectria fungus that can be found on beech trees, if you have a burning desire to know the names let me know.



Other:

Firewood movement and quarantines – from Bill McNee. Now that hunting season is about to start, you may receive calls about firewood movement. Encourage the public to buy firewood near where they plan to burn it, and to not move firewood long distances because of the risk of spreading pests and diseases such as emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, and oak wilt. Hardwood firewood can't be moved out of the four



counties quarantined for emerald ash borer (Fond du Lac, Ozaukee, Sheboygan and Washington Counties) (map left).

Hardwood firewood from the other Wisconsin counties that are quarantined for gypsy moth (red counties on the map at right) can be moved into another gypsy moth-quarantined county, but can't be taken into counties that are not quarantined for gypsy moth (white counties on the map)



unless inspected. Although it may be legal, we don't recommend long-distance firewood movement because of the risks involved.

For a printable sign regarding firewood and the EAB quarantine check out this page: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/pdf/FirewoodQuarantineWI.pdf>

Tick info – since ticks aren't really insects (insects have 6 legs) I guess I have to include tick info in my "other" section. Deer ticks (and others) can be quite active in the fall so don't forget to do tick checks after a day in the field. Deer ticks take 2 years to complete development so at this time of year you'll typically have 2 stages of tick present, the nymphs, which will spend the winter somewhere safe, and the new adults, which don't hibernate and will look for a host throughout the fall and the warm days of winter. I recently stumbled across some great tick info on the CDC website and wanted to share it. If you have highspeed internet you should check out the handbook on ticks which outlines all of the different tick species and what diseases they carry. This document has color photos and tons of information. The drawback is that is 8M in size so only those of you on highspeed internet will want to check out this link



Adult deer tick (left), immature deer tick (right)

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/lyme/resources/handbook.pdf> A slightly smaller, but very nice document focuses on lyme disease with a great map of the reported cases of lyme disease. This document can be found at http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/lyme/resources/tick_infocard.pdf

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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.