

# SCR & SER Forest Health Update

Wisconsin DNR, Forest Health Protection Unit  
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### **Gypsy moths are hatching in south central Wisconsin**



Phenology monitors assisting the DNR suppression program have been busy monitoring egg hatch in Dane and Sauk Counties. Egg hatch started the last week in April in the Madison area, a little earlier than normal due to recent mild weather. All sites being monitored are experiencing hatch and peak hatch will likely occur this week. Once we hit peak hatch there is about a 10-14 day time frame for caterpillars to develop to the right size for spray treatment. For general information on gypsy moth go to: <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov/>

### **Gypsy moth DNR suppression program spray activities**



Aerial treatment for suppressing gypsy moth populations in eastern and central Wisconsin will be starting approximately mid-May. As mentioned in the last newsletter we have 10 spray blocks in Dane and Sauk County of the South Central region (Madison area, Sun Prairie, Lake Kegonsa State Park and Devils Lake State Park). For site specifics on where spraying will occur check out the following website: [http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/fh/GM/spray\\_areas/index.htm](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/fh/GM/spray_areas/index.htm)

### **Planned DATCP STS "Slow the Spread" spray activities for 2007**

As mentioned in the last update, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection will be continuing spray activities in western Wisconsin in an attempt to slow the westward spread of gypsy moth. In south central Wisconsin, DATCP is proposing treatments in western Rock, Green, Iowa, Grant, southwestern Sauk, and Richland Counties. To see a map of proposed STS spray blocks go to (STS areas in yellow and suppression areas in blue):

[http://datcp.state.wi.us/arm/environment/insects/gypsy-moth/map\\_index.jsp](http://datcp.state.wi.us/arm/environment/insects/gypsy-moth/map_index.jsp)

## Eastern tent caterpillars are out making tents!



Tiny caterpillars on a web.  
Photo taken on April 27, 2006

Tents created by the eastern tent caterpillar were observed in Sauk County. Caterpillars were about 1/5 inches in length (April 27, 2006). A DNR SCR Forester, Cindy Kohles reported a significant number of eastern tent caterpillars in the area west of Muscoda in Grant County on May 4th (Thank you, Cindy!).

The eastern tent caterpillar (*Malacosoma americanum*) is native to Wisconsin. Though eastern tent caterpillar tents are found every year, occasionally its population reaches a high level. Last spring, the increase in the population of the caterpillar was noted in some areas in Columbia, Dane, Green, Sauk, and Walworth Cos.

Infestations are commonly seen on open grown trees and trees on the roadside or along fence rows. The eastern tent caterpillar favors cherry and apple trees though it also feeds on some other deciduous trees. The caterpillars hatch when the buds begin to open, and construct a silken tent on a fork of branches. They continue to feed for about 6 weeks and pupate. An adult is a reddish-brown moth. There is one generation per year. Heavily defoliated trees will produce a second set of leaves once feeding is over. However, the refoiliation process will further stress the trees.

In a yard situation, a bacterial insecticide Btk (*Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*) can be effective to control young caterpillars. Since Btk has to be consumed by caterpillars, it needs to be applied on to foliage not to caterpillars or tents. There are also general use insecticides that are labeled to control eastern tent caterpillars. Be sure to follow manufacture's label directions. For more information about pest management and pesticides, please refer to a UW Extension booklet, titled "Woody ornamentals: pest management in Wisconsin (A3597)" at <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/pdf%5CA3597.pdf>.

There is a nice UW Extension fact sheet about the eastern tent caterpillar at <http://s142412519.onlinehome.us/uw/pdfs/A2933.PDF> to hand out to the public.

## Cankers on Sugar maple in Richland Center-Shane Lishawa



Typical of observed sugar maple canker damage affecting the bole and small branches.

Extensive cankers on main boles of sugar maple were observed in Richland County last winter. Greater than 75% of sugar maples within the stand exhibited canker wounds. Wounds occurred on all aspects of trees and from ground level through the canopy. The sugar maple stand in question was thinned in the early winter of 2001. In the year following the logging activity, cankering was observed on residual sugar maple stems in the stand. Visible tooth scrapes and claw marks were observed on as many as four years of successive growth. Wounds ranged in size and in location and were observed on small branches and on the main bole of trees. Sugar maples were the only tree species visibly affected.

From these observations, it is suspected that a combination of factors, both abiotic and biotic, has led to the severe sugar maple damage observed at this site. Sunscald damage is often associated with major disturbance events which dramatically change the thermal

environment in a stand. In the Lake States, porcupines and gray squirrels are known to feed upon sugar maple phloem tissue. Based on the width of incisors, the gray squirrel was the most likely mammalian herbivore on these trees.

The observed sugar maple cankering, callusing, and subsequent decline may have proceeded in the following manner. The heavy thinning of the sugar maple stand opened up the canopy sufficiently to allow direct sunlight to penetrate and combined with the wide ranging temperatures in the winter of 2001 was likely the cause of initial sunscald injury in the stand. The wounded tissue was fed upon by gray squirrels in 2001-2005 causing major expansion of previously damaged tissue. This bizarre set of circumstances proved to be fatal to the majority of remaining sugar maple in this stand.

## **Firewood from Illinois is recalled**

The firewood that was distributed by an Illinois company, Taylors Wood Products, Inc. was not properly treated to eliminate the risk of transporting emerald ash borer, and the wood has been recalled. The firewood was sold from area Menards home improvement stores in Wisconsin. Though the firewood should be off the shelves by now, it is believed that most of the wood recalled has already been sold. Customers who purchased the recalled firewood should burn them immediately in an effort to help slow the spread of this killer beetle and its possible introduction into Wisconsin. Burning will kill the insects inside.

It is believed that the firewood from Taylors Wood Products, Inc. was only distributed to Menards, not other home improvement stores, such as Home Depot or Lowes. If you find any firewood from Taylor Wood Products, or other firewood from IL, MI, IN, or OH (other than Solid Rock from Indiana) for sale, please report it at 1-800-462-2803.

For more information about this topic, please visit the Wisconsin DATCP (Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection) website at <http://pestbulletin.wi.gov/pests.jsp?articleid=&issueid=77&categoryid=33>. Information about emerald ash borer and the problems associated with transporting pests and diseases in firewood can be found at the Wisconsin Emerald Ash Borer Web site at <http://emeraldashborer.wi.gov>.

## **New Forest Health information available on-line**

**New oak harvest guidelines at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/fh/oakWilt/guidelines.asp>**  
The guide is based on the latest scientific data related to what influences the risk of introducing oak wilt into the woods and the risk of spread and impact. The guide leads landowners through a series of questions about their forest then provides them with the level of risk of introducing oak wilt, the level of impact and overall risk. The guide also provides recommendations as to the best time of year to conduct harvest activities. The guide is available both interactive online and in a printable format that may be downloaded from the site (this paragraph was written by Jane Cummings-Carlson).

**Periodical cicada factsheet at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/fh/pdf/CicadaUpdate.pdf>**  
This factsheet was recently created by Mark Guthmiller. It includes information about the biology of 17-year periodical cicada and outbreak cycles. It also contains a map that shows the last mass emergence in 1990. This is a very good factsheet to hand out to the curious public.

## **Please report to us**

We appreciate reports of forest health problems in your areas. Currently, there is no regional forest health specialist assigned in SCR or SER. At this point, please contact the following staff for regional forest health problems/questions. Thank you.

### For general forest health issues

Jane Cummings-Carlson (northern part of SER) 608-275-3273

Kyoko Scanlon (southern part of SER, and SCR) 608-275-3275

### For gypsy moth

Andrea Diss (Statewide issues) 608-264-9247

Mark Guthmiller (SCR/SER) 608-275-3223

Emerald ash borer hotline 1-800-462-2803

Emerald ash borer e-mail eab@datcp.state.wi.us .

Gypsy moth hotline 1-800-642-MOTH

Forest Health web site: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/FH/>

Gypsy Moth web site: <http://www.gypsymoth.wi.gov>

Emerald ash borer web site: <http://emeraldashborer.wi.gov/>

## **About the newsletter**

“SCR & SER Forest Health Update” is an informal newsletter created by the Wisconsin DNR, Forest Health Protection Unit. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide foresters in the South Central Region and Southeastern Region with regional up-to-date forest health information. This newsletter will be issued monthly during the growing season and on an irregular basis during winter as topics come up. We welcome your comments/suggestions on this newsletter and your reports on forest health problems you observed in your area. If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter, please contact Kyoko Scanlon at [Kyoko.Scanlon@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:Kyoko.Scanlon@dnr.state.wi.us).

Previous issues of this update and regional forest health updates from NER and WCR are available from the WI DNR Forestry website at

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/Forestry/FH/intheNews/index.htm>.

Articles were written by Kyoko Scanlon, unless otherwise noted.