

West Central Region Forest Pest Update – 7/19/2007

(Todd Lanigan)

Topics covered:

Insects:

Jack Pine Budworm
Post Oak Locust
Fall Webworm

Diseases:

Oak Anthracnose or
Bacterial Leaf Scorch

Other: Poison Ivy

Insects:

Jack Pine Budworm – I would like to welcome two more counties to the brotherhood of having Jack Pine Budworm in red pine. It has been found in a 30 year old red pine plantation on the Jackson County Forest and for the first time budworm has been found in St. Croix County, and it happens to be in a 19 year old red pine plantation.

Jack Pine Budworm has now been found in 12 counties in the region. Counties where budworm is found in red pine include: Adams, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson, Juneau, Monroe, Pierce, Portage, St. Croix, and Wood. The two remaining counties where budworm is found only in Jack pine (so far) are Clark and Marathon.

Here is a photo of the budworm defoliation in St. Croix County. The photo was taken by Dahn Bohr, DNR Forester in the county.



Post Oak Locust – I started getting calls and e-mails about grasshoppers defoliating trees in Adams and Wood counties the last week of June. I had a hard time believing it could be Post Oak Locust that early. It would have been about a month early for them. I was in SE Jackson County the week of 9 July and Post Oak Locust was out by the thousands. Some oaks (both in the overstory and understory) had 100% defoliation. I have no idea what impact this defoliation will have on the trees.

I heard from John Hintz yesterday (18 July) from WI Rapids, and the Post Oak Locusts are actually chewing on the wood trim and paint of a house in the Town of Saratoga in Wood County. The homeowner is using duct tape (sticky side out) as traps around the house. Below is a photo of the duct tape trap John sent.

Post Oak Locust prefers oaks, but in the Lake States they will feed on pines as well. I am sure the locusts will feed on other tree species as well as they run out of their preferred host species.

The males will have bright red bands on their hind legs, and the females will have a dull red band on their hind legs. Here is a photo of a male locust and a photo of the home made locust trap.



Fall Webworm – Has been out for about two weeks now, and this seems to be about a month early too. If people want to try and control them, opening up the web is probably the easiest control method. If they want to use an insecticide, it will need to penetrate the web. Remind people if they are using a pesticide to make sure the product they are using is labeled for what they want to treat and to follow label directions. The label is Federal Law.



Diseases

Oak Anthracnose or Bacterial Leaf Scorch– Some white oaks are looking off color and are thin crowned. From what I have seen, it is a tree here and there that are affected in the stand. The leaves look like it is anthracnose rather than leaf scorch (used binoculars to look at the leaves). If it is anthracnose, this disease normally does not cause any damage the first year or two. However, it can cause twig and branch mortality if the tree is heavily infected for a couple of years in a row. Here are a couple of photos of anthracnose on white oak.



If it is Bacterial Leaf Scorch, here is a link to a US Forest Service site that describes the problem.

<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/bls/index.shtm>

Other

Poison Ivy – Leaves are starting to turn color and are dropping.

Arthropod Proverb:

The locust lives only a little while, but it does great damage. (Rumanian)

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>.