

West Central Region Forest Pest Update – 5/16/2008

(Todd Lanigan)

Topics covered:

Insects:

Ips Bark Beetles
Pine Gall Weevil
Emerald Ash Borer Survey

Diseases:

Dothistroma Needle Blight

Other:

Herbicide Tables

Insects:

Ips Bark Beetle – For the last two to three years I have been seeing more jack and red pines fading in late summer and early fall from Ips bark beetles than I have during the summer months. This is a new phenomenon for me. This may lead to increased phone calls to you asking why my pine trees turned red and died over the winter. You can have the caller check the tree(s) in question and if the tree looks like it was shot with a shotgun, it will be Ips that caused the mortality. I really do not know why we are getting more attacks/mortality in late summer and early fall.



Pine Gall Weevil – This is one of those odd insect samples that come in from time to time. Pine gall weevil breeds in red pine. During June the female lays eggs in niches chewed into the bark of 1 year old twigs. Young larvae feed first on the sides and floor of the egg niche, and then bore into the cambium. The larvae continue to feed for three seasons, and pupation occurs in funnel shaped cells in the bark during May of the fourth season. The galls appear as a slight swelling on one side of the stem. By the time the adults emerge, the galls are larger, usually ovoid, and taper towards the distal end. Old galls continue to enlarge even after the insects are gone. When several galls are formed on a small branch, you may get branch mortality.



Emerald Ash Borer Surveys for 2008 (Jane Cummings Carlson) - This year, DNR surveys for the Emerald Ash Borer will continue to focus on properties that are at a high risk of receiving infested firewood. Selected state parks and refuse sites (where infested material may have been shipped) will be surveyed with two methods: detection trees and baited traps. Baited traps are still quite experimental but show promise. Detection trees and traps will be compared for their effectiveness in attracting adults where beetle populations are low in Michigan. Selected private and county parks in west-central Wisconsin will be surveyed visually. Details related to the survey locations are still being finalized. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection will also be conducting EAB surveys, focusing on baited traps. DATCP's area of survey will be concentrated in southeast WI but additional trap sites will be located in high risk areas of the state. Look for further details in upcoming newsletters.

Diseases:

Dothistroma Needle Blight – This disease is very common and most severe on Austrian pine, but it is also a common disease of red pine. The lower portion of the needle will remain green, while the needle tip turns red. On the dead portion of the needle you will see yellow to tan spots that enlarge to form distinct brown to reddish brown bands. The fruiting bodies will be formed in the dead spots or bands on the needle, and appear in the fall. The spores are released the following spring and summer. Dothistroma infects and kills needles of all ages. Severely infected trees can be killed or may become more susceptible to other diseases. Dothistroma Needle Blight symptoms can be confused with Brown Spot Needle Blight (Brown Spot Needlecast) and winter injury.



Other:

Herbicide Tables – I have been asked about the Herbicide Tables on the Forest Health Website and if there is an updated version available. The most current version is what is on the website – 2006. I do not know what the status of the tables are or will be in the future. You will want to check the product that is listed in the Herbicide Table to make sure that product is still available and that it can still be used for your intended purpose. As you all know, pesticide labels change often. Here is a link to the Herbicide Tables and one for a site where you can look up pesticide labels.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Fh/weeds/>

<http://www.cdms.net/>

Arthropod Proverb: (American)

If you fool with the tumble-turd bug, you are apt to be spattered.



Previous issues of this update and regional forest health updates from NOR, NER, SCR/SER, and WCR are available from the WI DNR Forestry website at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/inthenews/>