

West Central Region Forest Pest Update – 7/3/2008

(Todd Lanigan)

Topics covered:

Insects:

European Pine Sawfly

Diseases:

Septoria Leaf Spot

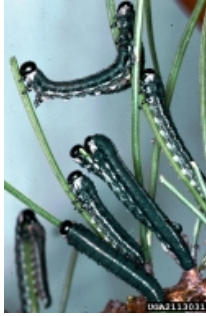
Dutch Elm Disease/Oak Wilt

Other:

Lyme Disease &

Ehrlichiosis

Insects:



European Pine Sawfly – These sawflies feed on a variety of pine but really like Scotch pine (what doesn't?). I have only seen them feeding on red pine in La Crosse County and in a red pine plantation on the Portage - Waushara County line. The larvae of this sawfly are green in color with black heads and they feed in colonies (photo at left). In the spring, the eggs hatch when the new shoots are expanding.

The larvae feed until about mid-July. They feed on the previous years needles. So when the larvae are done feeding you have some strange looking pine. If the sawfly population is high, the only needles left on the pines will be this year's new growth (photo at right).



When the larvae are finished feeding, they drop to the ground and spin a golden-brown cocoon. Adults emerge and are present in late August and September. Females lay their eggs in the pine needles in late September and October.

Diseases:

Septoria Leaf Spot – You probably have noticed certain clones of both quaking and bigtooth aspen that look like they have been defoliated (photo at right). I was not aware of this until I was asked about the defoliation and started looking around for it. Once I started looking for defoliated aspen, it was easy to find and appears to be a wide spread problem this year. The causal agent for the defoliation that I found is Septoria Leaf Spot. This leaf disease can cause premature defoliation of susceptible clones and may also cause growth loss. The spores from the leaf spots can cause cankers on these trees.



The leaf spots vary in size and shape (photo on left). They can be circular with brown or yellow margins, and if you use a hand lens or magnifying glass you may see the black fruiting bodies within the spot. The spots can be irregular in shape with dark margins and tan centers. The spots can coalesce to form large spots. The spots can also be white silvery color – these look pretty cool, almost like a mirror.

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There may be other causes of the aspen defoliation as well. There could be other fungal diseases and/or insects causing the defoliation as well.

Dutch Elm Disease and Oak Wilt – These two diseases are making their presence known. The yellowing and browning of the leaves on the elms and red oaks really stand out. I have seen more Dutch Elm Disease than I have Oak Wilt – at least so far. This could be another banner year for Dutch Elm Disease.

Other:

Lymes Disease and Ehrlichiosis – According to my physician, the incidence of both Lymes Disease and Erhichiosis are up this year. So when you come back in from the field or any outdoor activities, do a thorough tick check. Believe me, you do not want to be put on the antibiotic.

Arthropod Proverb: (Mexican American)

You are like a tick in a dog's ear.



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