

Exotics Pest Update August 14, 2008 (Bill McNee – NER Gypsy Moth Suppression Coordinator)

Emerald Ash Borer Found in Wisconsin!

On Friday, August 1, specimens taken from a wooded residential lot near the village of Newburg in Ozaukee County were positively identified as emerald ash borer. That same day, three adult beetles were collected from a purple EAB sticky trap in Fireman's Park in Newburg. These specimens were later confirmed to be EAB as well. Unfortunately, this park is in Washington County, meaning that EAB has now been detected in two Wisconsin counties. Pictures of the first find are shown below. (The firewood pile beneath the dead trees is probably not the source of EAB introduction due to the likely age of the infestation.)



Less than a week later on August 7, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) declared a quarantine for all of Ozaukee, Washington, Fond du Lac, and Sheboygan Counties. The size of the infestation is currently unknown, so Fond du Lac and Sheboygan Counties were also included because of their proximity to the known infested area. A map of the EAB detections and quarantined counties is available from: <http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov/pdf/WIEABQuarantine.pdf>

The quarantine restricts the movement of hardwood firewood, ash nursery stock, ash logs, 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. DNR Forest Health staff are already receiving calls from foresters who are asking questions about the quarantine restrictions. We anticipate more detailed information from DATCP regarding log and firewood movement in the near future. In addition, DNR will be revising its management guidelines for landowners now that EAB has been found.

More information on the EAB discoveries and subsequent quarantine can be found on the official press releases available on the DATCP website:

http://datcp.state.wi.us/press_release/result.jsp?prid=2199

http://datcp.state.wi.us/press_release/result.jsp?prid=2200

Representatives of DNR and DATCP met with local government officials on Monday, August 11 to discuss the current EAB situation and state agency plans for the next few months. An information session for the general public will be held on Tuesday, August 19 in West Bend.

The State's EAB response plan was recently updated and is available at:
<http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/arm/environment/insects/emerald-ash-borer/pdf/2008WIEABResponsePlan.pdf>

Surveys to determine the extent and age of the infestation will be conducted. An aerial survey of the local area has already been completed, and identified areas with dead and dying trees that will be ground-checked. Additional visual surveys will also be conducted. In addition, there are purple sticky traps and girdled detection trees that will be examined for the presence of EAB. The purple sticky traps have been placed on a 1.5 mile grid throughout southeast Wisconsin and also at high-risk sites elsewhere in the state. Detection trees along highway right-of-ways and in the nearby State Parks will also be peeled this fall.

Suspect EAB infestations can be reported to the Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection by calling 1-800-462-2803. DATCP and/or DNR staff will visit symptomatic sites.

Firewood Affected by the Quarantine

Due to the DATCP quarantine restrictions, firewood purchased, stored, or harvested in, or that has in any way entered Ozaukee, Washington, Sheboygan, or Fond du Lac counties (even if just driving through) cannot leave these counties. Moving firewood from these counties to a state park or forest outside of these counties is not permitted, even if the park or forest is within 50 miles. Firewood found to be violating a quarantine will be confiscated at the park or forest and DATCP will be notified.

These restrictions are in addition to the existing DNR firewood rules, which state that firewood entering a state park or forest must have been from Wisconsin and originate from within 50 miles of that property.

EAB in Other States

Since July's pest update there have been a number of significant EAB finds in other states and in Ontario. The most relevant to Wisconsin is a find in Houghton County, Michigan, in the western Upper Peninsula. A homeowner in Laurium, MI reported symptoms of EAB in and around an abandoned cemetery. Life stages of EAB were confirmed from the site. Laurium is on the Keweenaw Peninsula about 10 miles northeast of the city of Houghton.

Other finds: Bloomington in central Illinois
 Lake Wappapello in southeast Missouri (first EAB find for MO)
 Ottawa, Ontario

A map showing known EAB infestations as of August 8 is available from:
<http://www.dnr.wi.gov/Forestry/FH/pdf/EABdistribution.pdf>

Insecticide Treatments for Individual Trees

Now that EAB has been found in Wisconsin, homeowners may wonder if they should start treating their yard trees even if they live far away from the known infestation. This news release from Chris Williamson, a UW-Madison Entomology Professor, should answer most questions about treatment of yard trees:

<http://www.news.wisc.edu/15472>. His current recommendation is that it's not worth treating trees if you live more than 10-12 miles from a known infestation.

Now that EAB has been found in Wisconsin, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is warning the public that unscrupulous businesses may be taking advantage of the EAB discovery. The DATCP news release can be found at:

http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/press_release/result.jsp?prid=2202.

Asian Long Horned Beetle in the News!

Four months ago, Illinois declared the Asian long horned beetle (ALB) eradicated from the state. Earlier this month a shopper found an adult beetle crawling on a car in a parking lot in Deerfield, Illinois (about 10 miles north of Chicago and O'Hare Airport). Officials are currently surveying the area to look for more signs of the pest. It is not known whether this find represents a new invasion or is a remnant of an earlier introduction of the pest. The insect attacks numerous hardwoods including maple, elm, birch and willow.



Unfortunately, the beetle has also turned up in Massachusetts for the first time. Officials announced the detection in Worcester, on a small number of trees. The area in which the beetle was detected contains at least one industrial plant that is believed to import material from overseas using wood packing materials. Media reports state that 90% of street trees planted in recent decades are Norway maple, one of the pest's favorite species. On Thursday, August 14, it was announced that the area of concern had increased in size to 16 square miles and includes parts of two neighboring towns as well as Worcester. The current number of known infested trees was not announced.

The pest is still being battled in central New Jersey and the New York City area, with infested trees found in 2007 in Brooklyn and Amityville on Long Island, on Staten Island, and on Prall's Island, a small island between New Jersey and Staten Island. To date, no new 2008 finds in New York or New Jersey have been announced.

Wisconsin has native long horned beetles that look very similar. If you suspect Asian long horned beetle, please contact DNR Forest Health Staff.

Beech Bark Disease Surveys Completed in Wisconsin, None Found

Recently, surveys were conducted in northeast Wisconsin and along the Lake Michigan shoreline to look for beech bark disease and beech scale, the insect associated with the disease. No signs of either were found. The disease and scale continue to move towards Wisconsin from Upper Michigan and are expected to arrive in Wisconsin within the next 5-10 years.

Foresters working in beech stands should contact Bill McNee (bill.mcnee@wisconsin.gov) if they see trees that appear to have a covering of ‘white wool’ (photo on right). Beech scale can be spread by the wind, birds, or firewood, and therefore could also arrive along the lakeshore from infested Lower Michigan.



Gypsy Moth Season Winds Down

With female moths laying eggs in northern Wisconsin, the gypsy moth season is winding down in Wisconsin. High mortality from viral and fungal diseases continues to be seen in most areas of NER. At present, there continues to be significant interest in spraying next year in areas where mortality from disease was not as high (mainly in the southwest NER counties).

To date, the counties with the most public calls to the DNR gypsy moth program this summer are: Dane (87 calls), Milwaukee (59), Kenosha (44), Walworth (25), and Adams (24).

Gypsy Moth Program Training Sessions for Local Governments and Program Volunteers

Two training sessions will be held in central and northeast Wisconsin in early September to train DNR gypsy moth suppression program cooperators for the upcoming program year. These sessions will cover the gypsy moth life cycle and biology, how the suppression program works, how to do egg mass surveys, program timelines, etc.. and is highly recommended for local governments that are participating in the suppression program for the first time. DNR staff are welcome to attend.

The first session will be held in the City of Adams in Adams County on Sept. 4. The session is at the Adams Community Center from 1-4 PM. The address is 569 N. Cedar St. and the building is behind the County Market.

The second session will be held on Friday, Sept. 5 at the DNR Regional Headquarters in Howard, Brown County. The address is 2984 Shawano Ave. and the session will begin at 9:30 AM.

Contact Bill McNee (bill.mcnee@wisconsin.gov) if you have questions.

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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/>