

# West Central Region Forest Pest Update – 2/27/2009

(Todd J. Lanigan)

## Topics covered:

### Insects:

Winter Cutworm

Exotic Metallic Wood Borers (Flatheaded Borers)

Emerald Ash Borer - New Find In Pennsylvania

### Diseases:

### Other:

New DNR Nursery Pub

## Insects:

**Winter Cutworm** – Linda Williams (DNR Forest Health Specialist – Green Bay) got some phone calls last week about “worms crawling on the snow.” Linda identified them as winter cutworm and provided me with the photo on the right. Linda contacted Phil Pellitteri (UW Extension Entomologist) about the caterpillars. According to Phil, winter cutworm was first discovered in Wisconsin in 1997. Winter cutworm is a European species, and overwinters as a



large caterpillar. The caterpillars can be active anytime in the winter when the temperatures allow it. They do not feed on turf, but will feed on a wide variety of plants. According to Phil, if you find 2-3 per square feet, you should watch your early season flowers. I have also received a couple of phone calls about this caterpillar.

Below are links to a pest alert and news release from Michigan on winter cutworm.

[http://www.msue.msu.edu/objects/content\\_revision/download.cfm/item\\_id.434424/workspace\\_id.-30/Winter%20Cut%20Worm.pdf](http://www.msue.msu.edu/objects/content_revision/download.cfm/item_id.434424/workspace_id.-30/Winter%20Cut%20Worm.pdf)

[http://www.msue.msu.edu/objects/content\\_revision/download.cfm/item\\_id.442236/workspace\\_id.-30/Winter%20Cutworm%20Management.pdf/](http://www.msue.msu.edu/objects/content_revision/download.cfm/item_id.442236/workspace_id.-30/Winter%20Cutworm%20Management.pdf/)

**Exotic Metallic Wood Borers (Flatheaded Borers)** – There is a new exotic metallic wood borer attacking oaks in Southeast Michigan. The beetle, *Agrilus sulcicollis* has been in Michigan since 2003, and does not seem to be causing any significant problems at this time. The identification sheet below compares *Agrilus sulcicollis* to *Agrilus cyanescens*, which I believe is another exotic that feeds mainly on exotic honeysuckles but will feed on trees as well.



Agrilus sulcicollis .pdf

The first link below gives a short biology and alternate hosts for *Agilus sulcicollis* (oak feeder) and the second link does the same for *Agilus cyanescens* (honeysuckle feeder).

<http://www.volny.cz/midge/buprang/agsul.htm>

<http://www.volny.cz/midge/buprang/agcya.htm>

### **Emerald Ash Borer - New Find In Pennsylvania**

**Emerald Ash Borer - New Find In Pennsylvania** – The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture announced on 25 February 2009, that Emerald Ash Borer has been found in Mifflin County. The map at the right shows Pennsylvania's quarantined counties outlined in red and Mifflin County the newest quarantined county is solid red.



This represents a significant jump across the state. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture the infestation has more than likely been there for several years. Education and outreach played a critical role in finding this new infestation.

### **Other:**

**New DNR Nursery Publication – A Step-By-Step Guide To Planting & Maintaining Trees, Creating a Forest** - The State Nursery Program and UW-Extension recently produced a new publication about tree planting. More detailed information regarding the publication appeared in the last ForesTREEporter. Check it out at the link below - I think the pub is well done.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/publications/pdf/FR-426-2008.pdf>

**Arthropod Proverb: (Rumanian)** - It is a little late for Valentine's Day, but here it is anyway.

**A cunning person's kiss is like that of a mosquito.**



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/>