

West Central Region Forest Pest Update – 6/9/2009

(Todd J. Lanigan)

Topics covered:

Insects:

Eastern Tent Caterpillar
European Pine Sawfly

Diseases:

Leaf/Needle Diseases

Other:

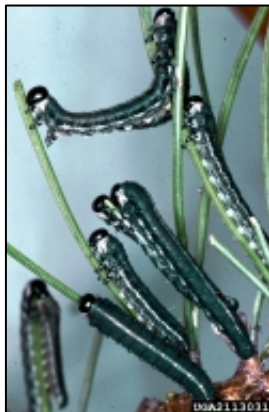
Pesticide Website
FSC Pesticides

Insects:

Eastern Tent Caterpillar (ETC) - It appears there is another healthy population of ETC this year, based on reports from other regions. I have only received a few phone calls or questions regarding the white tents in trees. The caterpillars feed on cherry, apple, crabapple, and will also feed on oaks and aspen when worse comes to worse. ETC will also be seen on Jack, red, Scotch, and white pines, and white spruce. However, I have not seen any feeding damage on these species in the past.



Some of the caterpillars may now be starting to pupate. Pupation usually finishes by the end of this month. When ETC pupates, they wander away from the nest and pupate on trees, brush, or debris on the ground. They will also pupate on buildings and fences. The pupae (cocoons) are dusted with a yellowish powder. The adults usually fly in late June and July. The adults are chocolate brown moths with a pair of oblique white lines on their forewings. The adults are attracted to lights at night.



European Pine Sawfly – I have received a few phone calls and some samples of European Pine Sawfly. These sawflies feed on a variety of pine including Jack, red, and sometimes white, but they really like Scotch pine (what doesn't?). The larvae of this sawfly are grayish green in color. The head, thoracic legs (the 6 “true legs”), and the upper part of the anal plate are black. There is a light colored stripe down their back, with two light green stripes and one intense green or black stripe on each side. 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, and feed on the previous years needles. When the larvae are done feeding you can have some strange looking pines. 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 sawfly 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:

Leaf/Needle Diseases – I have been getting a lot of phone calls about leaves turning black, then brown and curling, especially on soft maples and ash. I have also heard about premature leaf drop with ash. From the few samples I have received, Anthracnose is affecting both the maples and ash, including the ash leaf drop. I didn't think we had that much rain this spring to have problems with leaf diseases, but maybe the cool nights and dew on the foliage was enough to get things rolling. Now with the rain we have been getting, you can probably expect to see more fungal diseases popping up, if you have not seen some already.

Here are some common foliage diseases might be showing up. This is by far not a complete list of diseases or tree species that are susceptible to the diseases. For homeowners, the easiest control is to rake up whatever falls to the ground and get that material away from the tree(s).

Hardwoods

- **Anthracnose** – large brown areas of dead leaf tissue. Leaves will curl and/or shrivel up. Ash, maples, oaks (generally white), etc. are susceptible to this disease. If the disease is severe enough you may get some twig/branch dieback.
- **Leaf Blotch** – scattered brown areas of dead leaf tissue. If on the margin of the leaf, they can also curl up. Aspen, birch, maple, oaks, etc. are susceptible to this disease.
- **Leaf Spot** – small scattered brown areas of dead leaf tissue. Aspen, birch, maple, oaks, etc. are susceptible to this disease. Some leaf spot diseases will cause a “shot-hole” affect where the leaf tissue inside the leaf spot margin disappears or falls out.
- **Tar Spot** – raised black spots on the leaf. Looks like tar dripped on the leaf. Silver maple very susceptible.
- **Apple Scab** – brown blotches on the leaves and possibly the fruit later on.
- **Leaf Blight** – new growth will turn black and the shoot can have a “Shepherd's Crook” shape to it. Young aspen very susceptible.
- **Frost Damage** – leaves will be black in color and look somewhat wet or slimy. All hardwoods and conifers are susceptible.

Conifers

- **Diplodia Shoot Blight** – new growth killed and shoot can have a “Shepherd's Crook” shape to it, or dead needles on the branches. Black fruit bodies may be present on the needle or under the needle fascicle. Jack, red, Scotch, and white pines, and Colorado blue spruce are susceptible to this disease. (Can resemble red pine shoot moth damage – check for hollowed out shoots on red pine. If the shoot is hollowed out, it is shoot moth damage).
- **Pine Needle Rust (Goldenrod Rust)** – cream colored blisters on the needles of red pine seedlings. Normally this disease does not kill the seedlings.
- **Cyclaneusma Needlecast** – cream colored blisters on the needles of Scotch pine. Needles will turn brown and drop off.

- **Lophodermium Needlecast** – black football shaped fruit bodies on the needle with a slit down the middle. Needles will turn brown and drop off. Scotch and white pines are susceptible.
- **Rhizosphaera Needlecast** – needles turn purple in color and have small black fruit bodies in the stomata. Colorado blue spruce very susceptible.
- **Spruce Needle Drop (Sneed)** – small black fruit bodies on the needles and twigs. Foliage is chlorotic and trees just look bad. It is not known if this is a primary or secondary pathogen. So far researchers have not been able to fulfill Koch's Postulate with this fungus.
- **Fir Needle Rust** - cream colored blisters on the needles of Balsam and Fraser firs. Needles turn brown and will drop off.
- **Lirula Needlecast** – needle discoloration on Balsam and Fraser firs. Depending on the species of *Lirula*, there can be a single or double row of fruit bodies on the underside of the needle.

Other:

Pesticide Website – Here is the link to the CDMS website. If you need label or MSDS information for pesticides, this is the site to use. It has a pretty complete list of products, but it does not have all products. Also some generic products are not listed, but if you know the brand name, you can get the information that way.

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

FSC Pesticides – I have been getting questions regarding where to find a list of pesticides that is allowed by FSC. The last I heard, you still need to cross reference between the 2006 Herbicide Tables and the list of FSC prohibited pesticides on the Internet MFL Certification page. Below are the comments and links Paul Pingrey sent out on 5 March 2009, for determining what can and cannot be used for FSC.

“The 2006 tables are still the most recent ones we have available. The tables footnote the pesticides prohibited by FSC: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Fh/weeds/>”

“Also, a list of FSC prohibited pesticides is on the Internet MFL Certification page (link about half-way down): <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/certification/MFL.html>”

Arthropod Proverbs/Sayings: (American Proverb)

An ant may work its heart out, but it can't make money.



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/>