

WISCONSIN EAB UPDATE #6

September 26, 2007

SURVEY & DETECTION

Jane Cummings-Carlson (Renee Pinski)

WI DNR emerald ash borer purple prism trap surveys are complete. Two traps were hung at each of 12 state parks and seven municipalities. State park and forest locations include Interstate, Kettle Moraine North and South, Richard Bong, Devil's Lake, Peninsula, Peshtigo River, High Cliff, Governor Dodge, Mirror Lake and Rocky Arbor. Municipalities surveyed include Fitchburg, Madison, Beloit, Oak Creek, Sheboygan Falls, Steven's Point, and Monroe, WI. Trap inspection has begun, with about a third complete. All of the traps inspected so far have been negative for emerald ash borer. Insects of interest collected from traps include two commonly encountered pests of ash (red-headed ash borer and ash seed weevil) and numerous other native metallic wood-boring beetles.

Adrian Barta - DATCP

DATCP EAB survey specialists continue to mark trees in municipalities and rest areas in preparation for the upcoming tree peeling season. Peeler crews (16 staff) will start on November 5th, and will begin looking for larvae in detection trees after an intensive training program. The 2007-2008 survey has 1,227 trees in 30 counties girdled and awaiting peeling. Crews will be based in Milwaukee, Green Bay and Madison. Tree peeling will proceed county by county throughout the survey area.

FIREWOOD & REGULATORY

Bob Dahl - DATCP

Public hearings have been scheduled regarding DATCP's permanent rule on firewood certification. The certification is intended for those businesses who wish to sell firewood for use in Wisconsin state parks or other state-managed properties. Only firewood that is obtained from a source within 50 miles of the property can be used, unless it is certified by DATCP. The certification is voluntary.

Hearings will be held:

October 16, 2007
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
DNR Service Center
4301 Rib Mountain Road
Wausau, WI 54401

October 18, 2007
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
2811 Agriculture Drive, Board Room (CR-106)
Madison, Wisconsin, 53718-6777

DATCP has a Web page on firewood and the certification process, including a list of certified firewood dealers. The address is:
http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/arm/environment/insects/firewood_restrictions/index.jsp

URBAN FORESTRY

Dick Rideout - DNR

The Wisconsin DNR Urban Forestry staff recently spent two intense days visiting eight communities in southern Michigan and northern Ohio to learn firsthand how communities are responding to emerald ash borer infestation and the issues it creates.

Detailed newsletter articles and reports on the trip findings will be out in the near future, but for now, here are several recurring themes that emerged.

Define roles: It is critical to agree on specific roles for federal, state, and local government staff and for business, nonprofits, volunteers, etc., to ensure all resources are engaged and to avoid overlap, miscommunication or turf battles.

Start planning early: When EAB is finally detected, populations often surge and management shifts into crisis mode, quickly overcoming existing resources and staff capabilities.

Tree inventories are critical to early planning efforts and forecasting budgets for labor, equipment, staff training and restoration.

Wood disposal must be addressed: Profit is unlikely, but utilization can eliminate or offset disposal costs.

Funding will be needed, period.

Waiting and doing nothing will be more expensive: Communities that planned ahead were able to handle the removals and had funds to replant. Those that waited to react did not.

The group also visited a Michigan community that is treating public ash trees with systemic insecticides and an Ohio State University and city of Toledo cooperative research study on ash species susceptibility. Results of these studies and further conclusions drawn from the trip will be shared in future issues.

COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

Colleen Robinson-Klug - DNR

The DNR has sent postcards to 108,855 campers this season, reminding them to leave firewood at home when packing for their trip to a WI State Park. Many private campgrounds have followed the DNR model and are restricting firewood in some way on their properties to protect against emerald ash borer and other invasive species that hitchhike on firewood.

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Information in this e-newsletter will generally fall into these categories:

1. Survey & Detection (Jane Cummings-Carlson, DNR; Adrian Barta, DATCP)
2. Urban Forestry (Dick Rideout, DNR)
3. Communication, Outreach & Education (Colleen Robinson-Klug, DNR; Mick Skwarok, DATCP)
4. Firewood & Regulatory (Andrea Diss-Torrance, DNR; Bob Dahl, DATCP)
5. Wood Utilization (Terry Mace, DNR)
6. Control and Management (Phil Pellitteri, UW; Chris Williamson, UW)

There will also be occasional updates on policy, breaking news and research, and federal initiatives. Not every Update will contain information in all of these topics. Names associated with these topics are the primary providers of the information. Articles will occasionally be submitted by others, under the direction of the topic leader. In such cases, the author's name(s) will appear in parenthesis.

Updates will be provided by the individuals listed above and occasionally by others as time permits. If you have a particular interest in a topic, please contact the person listed above. If you'd like to subscribe to this e-newsletter, please send an e-mail to **eab@datcp.state.wi.us**. We also welcome comments or suggestions.