

Northeast Wisconsin Forest Pest Update – 4/20/08

Topics covered this month:

Insects:

Emerald Ash Borer
EAB and Insecticides
EAB Contact Info
Gypsy Moth
Mourning Cloak Butterflies
Ticks

Diseases:

Oak Wilt Restrictions

Other:

No other topics this month

Insects:

Emerald Ash Borer – from Bill McNee - The EAB detection project is about to begin in 26 state parks and forests, with crews girdling new



detection trees (right) and hanging purple sticky traps (left) baited with Manuka Oil from the Manuka tree (native to Australia and New Zealand). Adult EAB are attracted to the purple color of the trap, and the oil contains chemicals that have been shown to be attractive to adults. The purple traps are a new tool in its first year of widespread use, and can be deployed at lower cost than detection trees and in places where detection tree use may not be practical. 2008 will also be a large-scale comparison of the relative cost-effectiveness of the two detection methods.



The Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection will also be hanging several thousand of the purple traps, primarily in southern Wisconsin and at high-risk sites elsewhere.

More information can be found here:

http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/press_release/result.jsp?prid=2163.

To date EAB has not been found in Wisconsin.

EAB and Insecticides – from Bill McNee - there is also a lot of insecticide news to report. In addition to the products already in use against EAB in infested states, the following three have made headlines recently.

The Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is currently processing a special registration for the use of 'Safari 20 SG' insecticide as a trunk spray to control EAB when the insect is found in Wisconsin. This insecticide can be sprayed on the tree

trunk and is then taken into the tree, killing the EAB larvae. When EAB is found in Wisconsin, the insecticide will already be registered for use. More information is available at: http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/press_release/result.jsp?prid=2157. This insecticide is already registered for use against EAB in Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, and Indiana. Minnesota has also registered the insecticide for use in advance of EAB being found in that state.

There is also a new product called 'Tree-age' (pronounced like 'triage' which is the room in a hospital where they prioritize patients for treatment) whose active ingredient is emamectin benzoate. It is injected into the tree trunk and carried throughout the tree, and only needs to be injected every two years. News media reports claim 99% mortality of EAB larvae in trials. So far, the product has been approved for use in a number of other states that already have EAB infestations. Approval for use in Wisconsin is expected in the near future. More information is available at: http://blog.mlive.com/grpress/2008/04/emerald_ash_borers_beware_inse.html

Another insecticide in the pipeline for use against EAB is 'TreeAzin,' containing the product azadirachtin from the neem tree native to India and adjacent countries. Developed by the Canadian Forest Service and BioForest Technologies, this product is in the process of being registered for use in the U.S. An injection system injects the insecticide into the tree trunk and it is carried up into the tree. More information is available at:

<http://www.canada.com/windsorstar/news/story.html?id=ea43ac06-e556-4f22-bf2d-c192b94aff55&k=68265>

A representative list of products currently in the EAB arsenal (in Indiana) can be seen by visiting:

http://www.entm.purdue.edu/EAB/industries/green_industry/pesticides/pesticide_use.shtml

EAB contact information in Wisconsin - Wisconsin folks can email their EAB questions to eab@datcp.state.wi.us or they can call the EAB hotline at 1-800-462-2803. More info can be found on the Wisconsin DNR Emerald Ash Borer website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/FH/Ash/>

Gypsy Moth – from Bill McNee - Get ready for the return of the gypsy moths! Hatching (photo, 1st instar caterpillars on eggmass) usually starts during the last week of April in the southern half of Wisconsin and then proceeds north.

A program called BioSim predicts the egg hatch and spray times for us. As of April 20 the predicted hatch and spray times are:

Green Lake: 1% hatch April 21
10% hatch April 28
50% hatch May 7
Predicted spray dates between May 16-21

Green Bay: 1% hatch April 22
10% hatch May 1
50% hatch May 11
Predicted spray dates between May 20-26

Crivitz: 1% hatch April 30
10% hatch May 6
50% hatch May 17
Predicted spray dates between May 24-30



Egg mass removal or oiling can still be done prior to hatching. Sticky barrier bands should be put up very soon if they haven't already. Homeowners wanting to have yard trees sprayed should

call an arborist very soon. A list of certified arborists is available at www.waa-isa.org. Homeowners requesting information on gypsy moth management can be directed to our website, gypsymoth.wi.gov, or call 1-800-642-MOTH. The call center has been expanded since last year, so callers should be able to speak to a live customer service representative who can answer questions.

Mourning Cloak Butterflies – Mourning Cloak butterflies (*Nymphalis antiopa*) are out. These butterflies overwinter as an adult butterfly and emerge early in the spring to mate and lay eggs. Mourning Cloak caterpillars feed as a large group, which is more commonly seen in sawflies than in butterfly larvae. The caterpillars are a dark grey color with black spikes on their body and orange dots on their backs. Caterpillars feed on willow, aspen, cottonwood, and elm. They will pupate, then emerge as adults in the fall. Numerous sources say that the male butterflies are territorial but I must admit that I don't know how they defend their space. I just can't picture a butterfly fight being that scary.



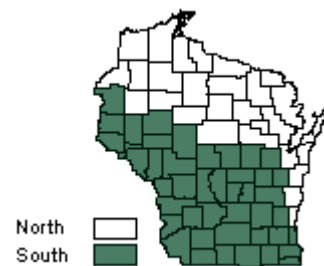
Ticks – ticks are out and looking for you! If anyone needs Tick ID Cards (right) which compare a Deer Tick with a Wood Tick let me know, I have some available and will order more if needed. Also, I have now collected specimens from all the nymphal stages of the deer tick, including the tiny 6-legged 1st instar nymph (all other immature stages have 8 legs as the adults do). If you would like to see these specimens stop by my office the next time you're at the DNR Headquarters in Green Bay. Sometimes it's hard to picture how small deer ticks are until you see them in person.



Diseases:

Oak Wilt restrictions – it's that time of year again. The time when you should not prune, wound, or harvest your oaks if oak wilt is a concern in your area. Oak wilt is a fungal disease specific to oaks that is almost always fatal. It is spread in 2 ways, overland by beetles, and underground through grafted root systems. The beetles that can spread this disease are attracted to fresh wounds where they feed on the sap and may accidentally leave some oak wilt spores as they feed. The pruning restrictions are aimed at limiting the overland spread of the disease by minimizing the number of fresh wounds that attract the beetles.

The time period that is considered the highest risk for overland spread of the disease is April 1 – July 15 for the southern portions of the state and April 15 – July 15 in the northern areas of the state (see map at right). During this high risk time period you should try not to prune, wound, or harvest oaks. If you are located within a city please check with your municipality to verify the restriction period since some cities and towns have extended their restriction period to include most of the growing season. Many people wonder why there is a



discrepancy in the restriction dates, why do some cities/towns have oak wilt restrictions that extend throughout the growing season? It all depends on your tolerance of the risk; the majority of oak wilt fruiting mats are formed under the bark in the spring of the year, attracting the beetles which can then spread the fungus. But, there are a small number of trees that die from oak wilt that will produce fungal mats in the fall of the year which means that there is some risk of overland spread in the fall. This number is quite small but it does create some late-season risk. Some cities and towns are not willing to accept that amount of risk and they create extended restriction periods to be absolutely safe.

For more information check out the DNR Forest Health Website and click on Oak Wilt on the left side of the page <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh>

Other:

No other items for this month

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

Note: This pest update covers forest health issues occurring in Northeastern Wisconsin. This informal newsletter is created to provide up-to-date information to foresters, landowners, and others on forest health issues. If you have insect or disease issues to report in areas other than northeastern Wisconsin please report them to your local extension agent, state entomologist or pathologist, or area forest pest specialist.

Pesticide use: Pesticide recommendations contained in this newsletter are provided only as a guide. You, the applicator, are responsible for using pesticides according to the manufacturer's current label directions. Read and follow label directions and be aware of any state or local laws regarding pesticide use.