

# West Central WI Forest Health Report

October 2012

## Topics covered this month:

### Insects

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## Insects

### Jack Pine Budworm

Todd Lanigan - Budworm surveys were conducted in Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson, Monroe, Pierce, and St. Croix counties. Jackson County was the only county where budworm activity was evident this year. There was moderate to heavy defoliation of jack pine in the southern portion of the Town of Manchester in the area of Old Hwy I, Bacon Road to Partridge Road. There was some top dieback and mortality of jack pine in this area. No egg masses were found in this area. There was also some very light defoliation of jack pine in the Town of Brockway east of Airport Road along West Bauer Road. One egg mass was found in this area. Based on egg mass counts, there should not be any major budworm activity in any of the counties surveyed.

Mike Hillstrom - Budworm egg mass surveys were also conducted in Adams, Juneau, Portage and Wood Counties. Egg mass counts did not suggest any major budworm activity in these counties.

## Gypsy Moth

DATCP recently released the final gypsy moth trapping numbers for 2012. The total number of adult male gypsy moths captured in the traps was down from 234,000 in 2011 to 174,000 in 2012. Two northern counties led the way: Bayfield with 46,000 and Ashland with 26,000 moths trapped. Three WCD counties had the next highest totals: Jackson (16,000), Wood (11,000) and Clark (10,000). Wood County also had the second highest number of moths caught per trap at 120. Applications for the 2013 suppression program are due by Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> so if you are in an area of concern you should conduct predictive egg mass surveys in the next few weeks. Applications for the suppression program are available at [www.gypsymoth.wi.gov](http://www.gypsymoth.wi.gov). If you plan to apply please let us know in advance of the December deadline. If you plan to participate do not remove egg masses until after surveyors have inspected the site.

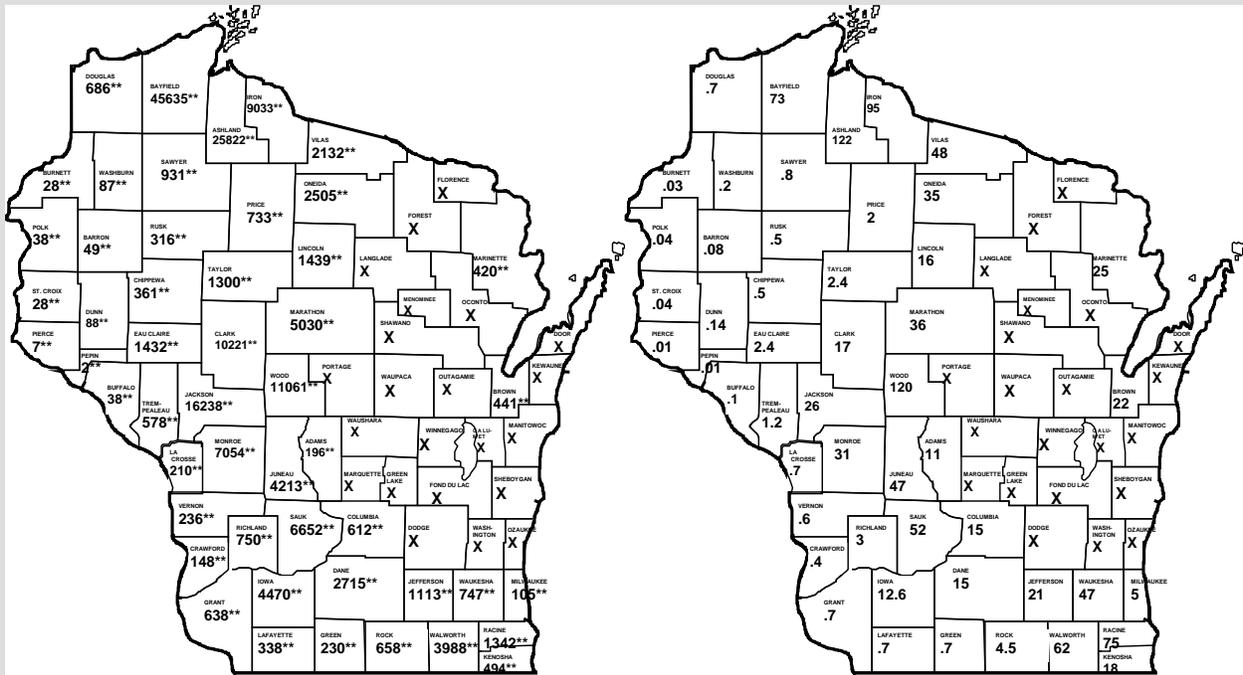
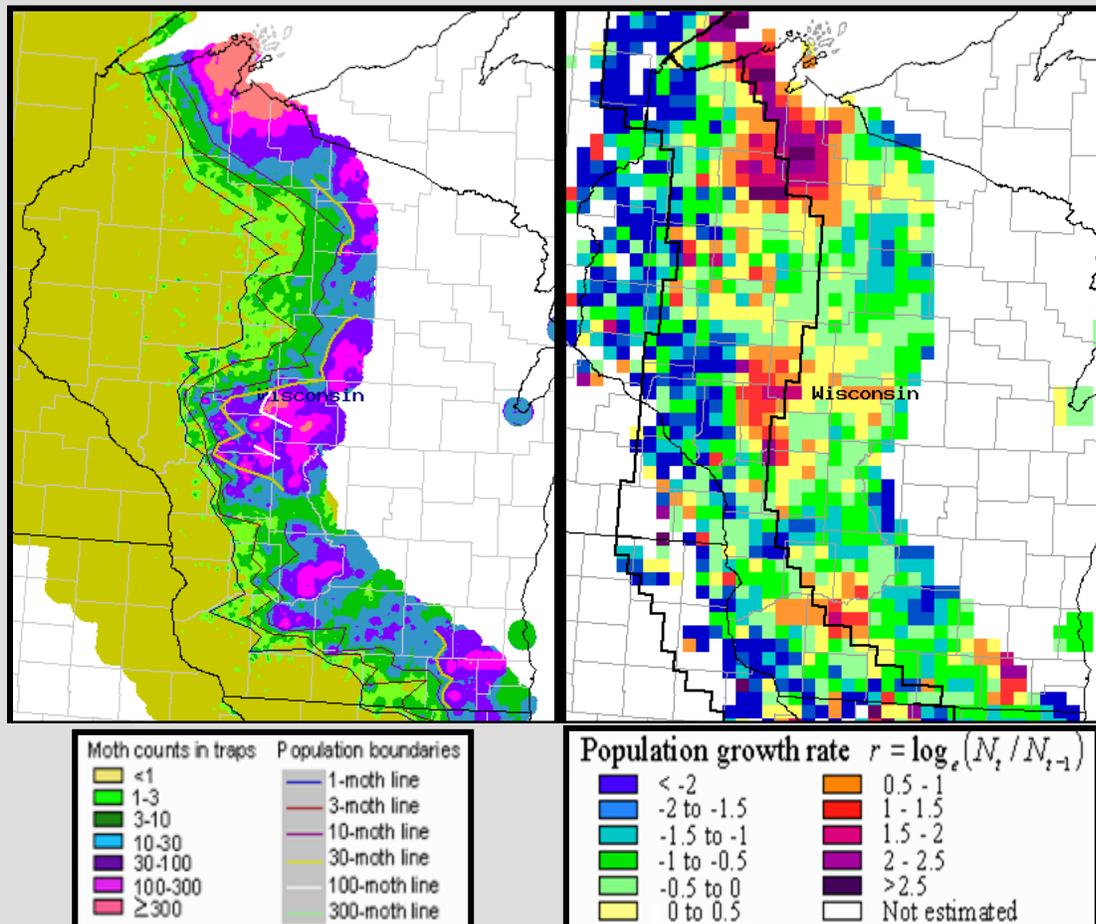


Figure 1. Total adult male gypsy moths caught in traps in 2012 (left) and the average number of moths caught per trap (right).



Figures 2, 3. Smoothed adult male gypsy moth counts for 2012 and the population growth rate for 2012. More info available at <http://da.ento.vt.edu/results3.html>.

## Emerald Ash Borer (by Bill McNea)

In mid-August it was reported that EAB had been detected in Perrot State Park with the finding of EAB in a sticky trap. Further investigation found EAB larvae in a tree immediately adjacent to where the sticky trap was located, so the traps do work!

Recently there have been several new or updated EAB documents that may be useful to our Pest Update readers:

- UW Extension has updated its EAB insecticide guide for homeowners to add several new pesticides: <http://hort.uwex.edu/articles/homeowner-guide-emerald-ash-borer-insecticide-treatments>
- The Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has released an updated list of Wisconsin communities where EAB has been detected: [http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/articleassets/EAB\\_Infested\\_Wisconsin\\_Communities.pdf](http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/articleassets/EAB_Infested_Wisconsin_Communities.pdf)
- A simple to use EAB decision guide for homeowners has been produced by Purdue University in Indiana: [http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/EAB/pdf/NABB\\_DecisionGuide.pdf](http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/EAB/pdf/NABB_DecisionGuide.pdf)
- Iowa State University Extension has produced a guide to ash tree problems, including EAB: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pme/Publications/EAB/FAQSUL21AshTrees.pdf>

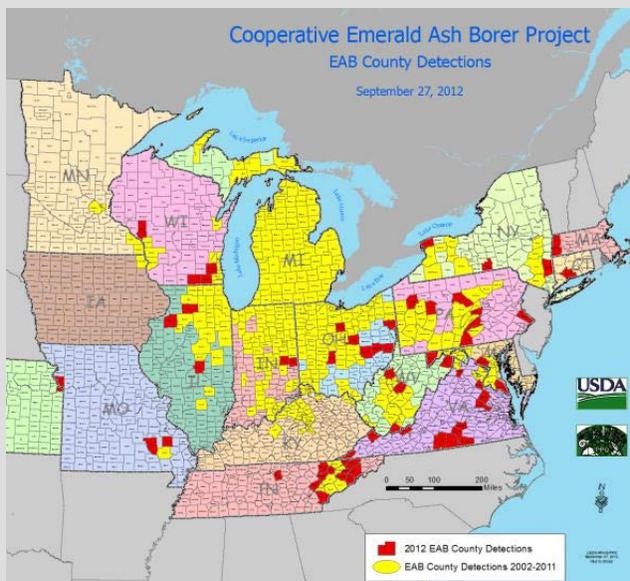


Figure 4. So far in 2012 there have been 63 new county detections nationwide, seven counties more than were found in all of 2011.



Figure 5. The 15 WI counties quarantined for EAB (in red) as of October 2012.

Sign up for automatic EAB news updates at: [http://datcp.wi.gov/Gov\\_Delivery/EAB/index.aspx](http://datcp.wi.gov/Gov_Delivery/EAB/index.aspx).

Suspicious beetles or symptomatic trees should be reported to the EAB hotline, 1-800-462-2803, or emailed to: [DATCPEmeraldAshBorer@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DATCPEmeraldAshBorer@wisconsin.gov)

## Insect/Disease Oak Flagging

We reported earlier this year that flagging oak branches were caused by botryosphaeria canker. Further investigation has revealed that Kermes scale is also involved. Kermes scale insects use their sucking mouthparts to feed on sap which commonly leads to twig death beyond the point where the insects feed. The large (for a scale insect), light brown, immobile females are typically found infesting twigs and branches near the buds. Heavy infestations can cause young trees to be deformed but control is rarely necessary because natural enemies usually provide adequate control.

Managing the fungus is also typically not necessary but pruning off dead twigs is an option when it is practical. Symptoms typically occur for a year or two and then subside but seedlings with top kill or larger trees affected for several consecutive years may take longer to recover.



Photo 1. Kermes scale on oak.  
Photos by Linda Williams.

Photo 2. Botryosphaeria spores erupting from  
the bark of an oak branch.

## Pesticide Use Information

Need some help figuring out what pesticide to use and what forms you need to submit? Check out the DNR intranet for lots of useful information. Just click on 'Pesticide Use' under DNR Tasks. The webpage contains links to FSC prohibited pesticides, herbicide tables and much more.

## Abiotic Drought

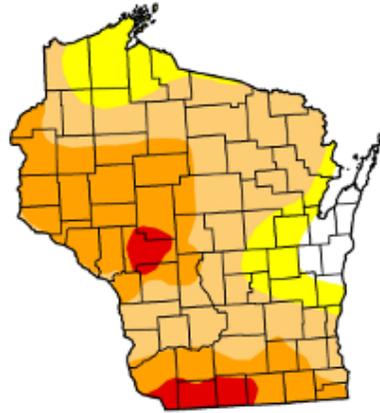
Some of you may have noticed a strange wet substance falling from the sky this month. Our research suggests this is known as rain. The recent rain should help trees store some much needed water going into the winter. Even with the rain this month we are still below yearly average rainfall totals in many parts of the state and we will almost certainly still see trees die this winter and next year as a result of the drought this year. Sites experiencing multiple stresses, for example oaks experiencing drought and gypsy moth damage, are most susceptible so keep this in mind if you plan to thin stands (thinning would add an additional stress) this winter or plant sites in spring 2013.

# U.S. Drought Monitor

## Wisconsin

October 23, 2012  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	4.54	95.46	80.20	35.52	4.76	0.00
Last Week (10/16/2012 map)	0.57	99.43	83.96	36.46	6.20	0.00
3 Months Ago (07/24/2012 map)	40.59	59.41	46.33	35.23	19.69	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/27/2011 map)	58.43	41.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	0.49	99.51	81.25	35.35	8.66	0.00
One Year Ago (10/18/2011 map)	77.50	22.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00



**Intensity:**

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

Figure 6. Drought conditions in WI as of October 23.

Source: U.S. Drought Monitor [http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/DM\\_state.htm?WI,MW](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/DM_state.htm?WI,MW)

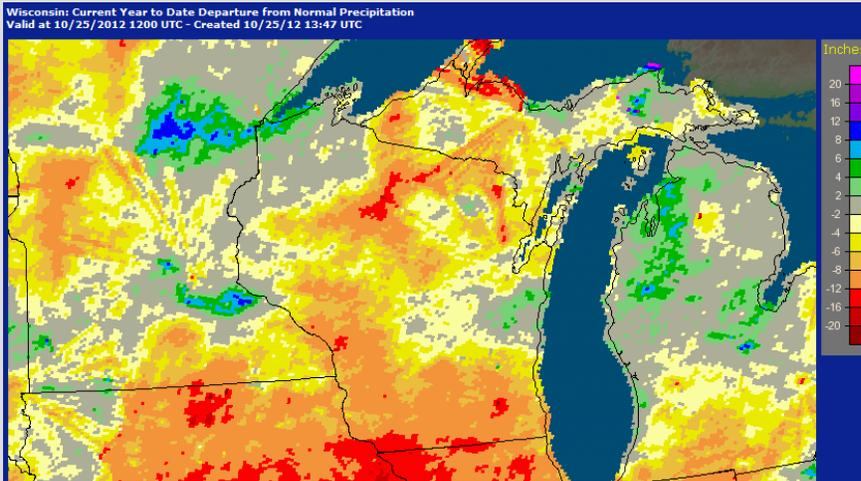


Figure 7. Wisconsin departure from normal precipitation (inches) this year to date.

Source: National Weather Service <http://water.weather.gov/precip/>

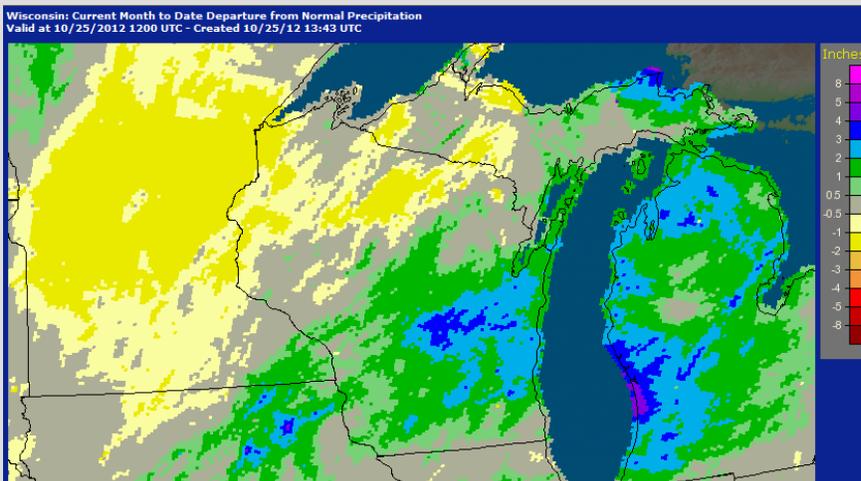


Figure 8. Wisconsin departure from normal precipitation (inches) this month to date.

Source: National Weather Service <http://water.weather.gov/precip/>

**For general forest health and municipal level urban forest health issues contact:**



<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/staff.html>

**West Central Region:**

Mike Hillstrom  
Forest Health Specialist  
Wisconsin DNR  
715-421-7825  
[Michael.hillstrom@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Michael.hillstrom@wisconsin.gov)

Todd Lanigan  
Forest Health Specialist  
Wisconsin DNR  
715-839-1632  
[Todd.lanigan@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Todd.lanigan@wisconsin.gov)

**Statewide reporting systems:**

Report EAB:

by phone 1-800-462-2803  
by email [DATCPEmeraldAshBorer@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DATCPEmeraldAshBorer@wisconsin.gov)  
visit the website <http://emeraldashborer.wi.gov/>

Report Gypsy Moth:

by phone at 1-800-642-6684  
by email [dnrfrgypsymoth@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dnrfrgypsymoth@wisconsin.gov)  
visit the website <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov/>

For additional information visit the Forest Health web site: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/>

Note: This report covers forest health issues occurring in the West Central Region of Wisconsin. The purpose is to provide up-to-date information on forest health issues to foresters, forest landowners, and anyone else interested. We welcome your comments/suggestions on this newsletter as well as reports on forest health problems in your area. If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter, please contact Mike Hillstrom at [Michael.hillstrom@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Michael.hillstrom@wisconsin.gov). Previous issues of this update and regional forest health updates from NER, NOR and SOR, are available from the WI DNR Forestry website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/Publications.html> Articles written by Mike Hillstrom unless otherwise noted.

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.