

Northeastern Wisconsin Forest Health Update

Wisconsin DNR – Division of Forestry

December 18, 2015

Topics covered this month:

Insects:

Christmas tree pests
Don't lick the honeydew
EAB new finds in WI
Other EAB news
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White grub treatment for lawns

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Pesticide applicator training (WI)

Diseases:

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Phomopsis galls on oak

Of Historical Interest

25 years ago - 1990 –
Bronze birch borer
Saddled prominent
60 years ago - 1955 –
Saddled prominent
Walkingstick

Insects

Christmas tree pests – do you have a real tree up in your house this year? Did you look it over to see what pests may have come with it? Maybe you have a balsam fir with balsam gall midge in the needles, or maybe you have some damage by balsam twig aphid. Do you have a spruce? If so, do you see any eastern spruce gall adelgid? Or maybe you have Spruce Gall Midge, which I covered in my 10/28/15 pest update. You may find scale insects, eggs laid on needles, and other galls, although many trees are fairly pest free so you may not have this kind of cool stuff decorating your tree.



Swellings on needles caused by balsam gall midge.

Don't lick the honeydew – recently, while searching for some info on woolly alder aphid, I came across a statement about honeydew that made me chuckle. Honeydew is the sticky sweet substance excreted by aphids and scales which drips onto leaves, cars, or whatever else is below the tree that the insects are feeding on. Here is the statement ... a good useful guideline:



Droplets of honeydew from balsam twig aphids.

"Some aphid species have lost the ability to poop on their own, and now depend on their caretaker ants to milk them." The Minnesota DNR cautions us that "while the honeydew excreted by the aphids is very sweet, it is mixed with aphid waste materials, so licking the honeydew off your car windshield is not recommended." 😊

EAB new finds in WI - In the past month emerald ash borer has been identified in the following areas around the state:

New County Quarantines:

- none

New finds in Counties already Quarantined:

- Crawford County – Village of Gays Mills
- Dane County – Village of Oregon
- Dane/Jefferson Counties – Village of Cambridge
- Dane/Green Counties – Village of Brooklyn
- Green County – City of Monroe
- Ozaukee County – Village of Thiensville
- Waukesha County – Town of Genesee, Village of Hartland



Woodpeckers have flaked off the outer layers of bark to more easily get to EAB larvae underneath.

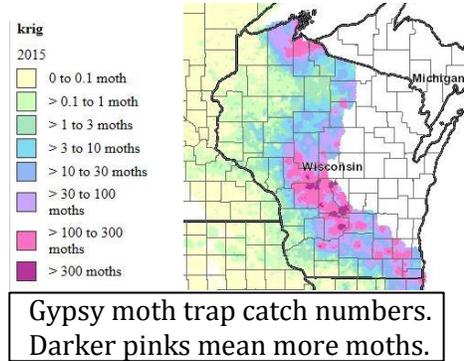
Other EAB news –

- Illinois announced it will be deregulating EAB within the state. The federal quarantine is still in effect in Illinois, which prevents movement of infested materials into states that still have state quarantines in place (which includes Wisconsin).
- In Door County, EAB has been found in trees within Potawatomi State Park.
- Minnesota has identified EAB in Washington County, just east of St. Paul along Hwy 94 (just west of the WI/MN border), at the St. Croix Rest Area.
- USFS has released a new (March 2015) document titled Biology and Control of Emerald Ash Borer. It includes info on the history of EAB, biology, host range and resistance, the parasitoids available, and more. Check out the 180-page [document](#) (46Mb in size) which is broken into chapters to more easily find a specific topic.

Watch for woodpecker activity on ash this winter! It may indicate an EAB infestation.

Gypsy moth – the trap catch numbers are in for the year. This year the gypsy moth trapping program caught 97,505 male gypsy moths. This is about a 5,000 moth increase over last year.

Egg mass surveys can now be done in order to predict gypsy moth populations in 2016. For more information on how to do egg mass surveys, visit www.gypsymoth.wi.gov Information on oiling or removing egg masses is also available at this website.



Spruce bud midge – damage to some spruce in Winnebago County turned out to be spruce bud midge. Larvae of spruce bud midge are very tiny and develop within the buds of spruce, causing the bud to become a small gall and killing the spruce bud in the process. Severe damage can cause growth loss in a spruce as the tree is forced to break new buds to continue branch growth. One paper from 1948 lists the hosts as white spruce, Norway spruce, and Colorado blue spruce, although another source indicates all species of spruce. There is a native parasitic wasp that attacks spruce bud midge and may serve to control the populations in forested areas. I'm not sure how common this is, or if it's more common in yard trees or forest trees. A bit more info can be found in a Michigan State University Extension [publication](#).



Spruce bud midge damage (swollen dead buds).

White grub treatment for lawns – I often get questions from folks about what they can use on their lawns to get rid of white grubs, either from our native June beetles, or from the invasive Japanese beetles. Michigan State University Extension put out a great article regarding white grub treatment options for lawns. It includes sections on preventative products, protecting bees and other pollinators from the product you're going to use, and curative products, as well as a section on what doesn't work. Check it out [here](#). University of Wisconsin Extension also has a [white grub publication](#) that gives you some specifics on timing of treatment depending on which species of grubs you're dealing with.

Diseases

Aspen terminals droopy and black – Venturia shoot blight is a disease that affects young aspen, causing the terminal leaves and shoot to droop, turn black, and die. This is a disease that occurs in the spring, but the damage (black shepherds crook at top of sapling) can remain throughout the growing season. No control is recommended in forest stands, although repeated infection can cause some reduced height growth or cause the young stems to be a bit zig-zag as other branches take over apical dominance. Very young



Venturia shoot blight of aspen.

regeneration that is killed back to the ground will have to resprout from the roots of the parent tree. Cool wet weather in the spring promotes the disease so some years it may be nearly non-existent in a stand. As the trees grow older they become less susceptible to the fungus.

Phomopsis galls on oak – phomopsis galls are large woody galls caused by a fungus and can be unsightly on the branches of trees (people often notice them in the winter with the leaves off). They occur in hickories, maples, oaks, and a few other species. The most common trees that I find them on in northeast Wisconsin are hickory, but in some areas oaks can be heavily galled. I had some recent reports of Northern red oak with phomopsis galls in Oneida County. Other counties where phomopsis has been found on Northern red oak include Barron, Clark, Oconto, Oneida, Polk, Shawano, Vilas, and Wood Counties. Infections can be localized to a single tree, with neighboring trees completely unaffected, or a small group



Phomopsis galls on main stem of Northern red oak.



Northern red oak in Oneida County with some very large galls on the main stem.

of trees may be infected, although larger infection centers can be found. There are some unknowns related to live cycle, how the disease is spread, etc. Phomopsis galls range in size from very small to larger than your head. Small Phomopsis galls may look similar to Gouty Oak Gall which is a gall that forms on a branch in response to insect attack from a small wasp.

There is no known treatment for Phomopsis galls other than to prune them out and dispose of them, harvest the tree, or simply live with them. If left on the tree they may eventually cause dieback or girdling of the branch that they are on. The tree may live for many decades with galls on the main stem. The presence of galls does not guarantee the rapid death of the tree, but I'm not aware of any studies that have really explored this issue in depth.

Other/Misc.

Firewood movement map – this map (at right), which includes both gypsy moth and EAB quarantine information related to firewood movement, has been updated. Check it [out](#).

Pesticide applicator training (WI) - If you or your staff need to sign up for Wisconsin pesticide applicator training here is some information:

Gypsy Moth and Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine Counties



Schedule with dates and pre-registration deadlines:

<http://ipcm.wisc.edu/pat/trainingschedule/>

NOTE: At this time there is only one live in-person Forestry session listed

March 16, in Marathon County

But, you can always do self-study and test at locations around the state. For more info go to <http://pestexam.datcp.wi.gov/> click on Register For An Exam then select the county you want to test in to see the testing dates available.

*where to order manuals <https://patstore.wisc.edu/secure/index.asp>

*for more info <http://ipcm.wisc.edu/pat/>

You don't have to attend a class, but if you go to the class it's really a good idea to have read/studied the manual BEFORE you go so you can pass the test at the end of the class.

The training manuals are \$47 per category, and if you want to attend a "Live Session" you need to register for the session which is an additional \$30 fee.

Of Historical Interest

25 years ago, in 1990 –

- **Bronze Birch Borer** – *Agrilus anxius* Gory. Birch mortality was at an all time high in northern Wisconsin where, after two years of drought, many birch stands were nearly eliminated. Roughly 40% of commercial white birch volume was dead or dying in the northwestern counties. Mortality was also very high in central and southern Wisconsin, particularly in ornamentals. In north-central counties, mortality ranged from very light to 50% of the birch volume.
- **Saddled Prominent** – *Heterocampa guttivitta* (Walker). An infestation of this late summer defoliator caused light defoliation of red and white oak in Door County.

60 years ago, in 1955 –

- **Saddled Prominent** – *Heterocampa guttivitta* (Wlkr.) Outbreak proportions were reached in Shawano and Marathon Counties in stands that were predominantly hard maple. Complete defoliation was sustained by some of the trees for the second year but no adverse effects were noted.
- **Walkingstick** – *Diaperomera femorata* (Say) Complete defoliation of oak stands in Shawano, Marathon, and Marinette Counties. Populations ranging from light to moderate were reported in portions of Bayfield and Eau Claire Counties.

Contact Us

Forest Health Staff - contact info for each Forest Health Specialist can be found our webpage at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/staff.html>

Vacancy area coverage:

Oneida, Vilas, Forest, Florence Co's – Linda Williams

Lincoln, Langlade Co's – Mike Hillstrom

Price, Taylor Co's – Todd Lanigan

Iron County – Paul Cigan

Report EAB:

by phone 1-800-462-2803

by email

DATCPEmeraldAshBorer@wisconsin.gov

visit the website

<http://emeraldashborer.wi.gov/>

Report Gypsy Moth:

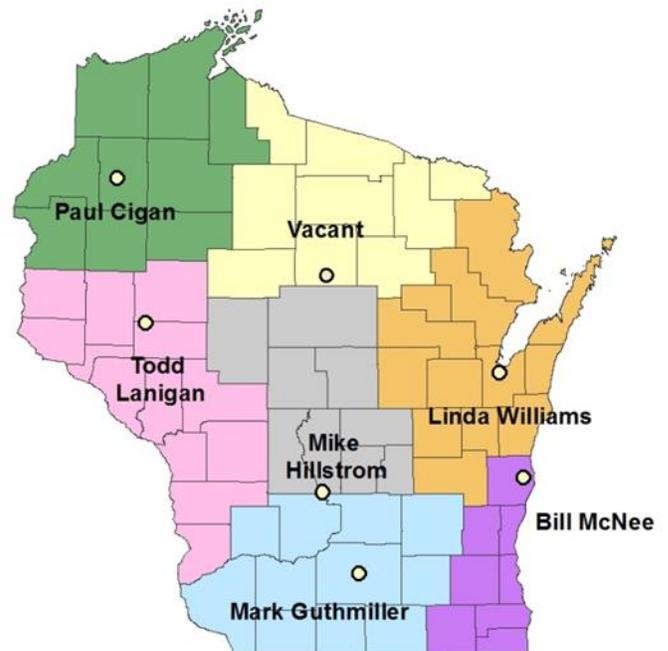
by phone at 1-800-642-6684

by email

dnrfrgypsymoth@wisconsin.gov

visit the website

<http://www.gypsymoth.wi.gov/>



Northeast Region Pest Update produced by:

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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.