Northeastern Wisconsin Forest Health Update

Wisconsin DNR – Division of Forestry

May 26, 2015

Topics covered this month:

Insects:
Asian longhorned beetle tied flies
Cynipid wasps in burr/swamp white oak bark
EAB new finds in WI
EAB UW pesticide documents updated
Gypsy moth
Larch casebearer
Pine bark adelgid
Pseudoscorpion

Other:
Hail damage
NR40 updated
Sapsucker damage
Additional reading

Diseases:
Ash anthracnose

Red headed pine sawfly.

Of Historical Interest
25 years ago - 1990 –
Larch Needlecast
Larch Sawfly
60 years ago - 1955 –
Larch Sawfly
Larch Casebearer

Insects

Asian longhorned beetle tied flies – any fly tiers out there? Recently I saw some instructions for how to tie a fly that looks like Asian longhorned beetle! If any of you try this I would love to see the results (good, bad, or ugly). This link shows a picture of a completed fly … err, beetle. Or, if you want to go directly to the directions for how to tie this, check out the very last page of the Tying Flies For Conservation document.

Asian longhorned beetle tied fly (for fly fishing). Photo on dontmovefirewood.org website.

Cynipid wasps in burr / swamp white oak bark – these tiny cynipid wasps (~3mm long) bore into branches of burr / swamp white oaks. They reproduce there, and the immature grubs are also tiny. This year I've received reports of woodpeckers going after the grubs and damaging the bark on trees in Green Bay. This seems to be primarily an urban issue in burr/swamp white oaks, with past reports coming from other urban areas around the state. Although these wasps primarily inhabit the bark, and generally don't go as deep as the cambium, some of the woodpecker activity does damage the cambium and you can get branch dieback.

Woodpecker damage on swamp white oak branches. Small pits are where cynipid wasp larvae were, before the woodpeckers got them.

Cynipid wasp adults from a swamp white oak branch. Larvae can be seen in the pits in the upper right corner of the pic. Ruler marks are millimeters.

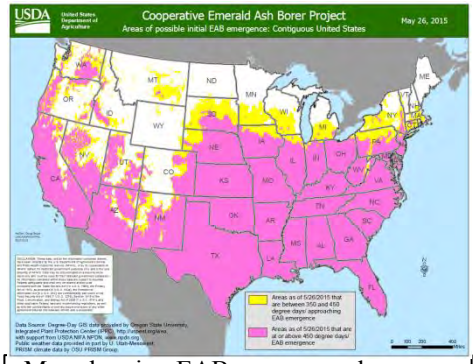
EAB new finds in WI - In the past month emerald ash borer has been identified in the following areas around the state:

New County Quarantines:

- none

New finds in Counties already Quarantined:

- Columbia County – City of Portage
- Dane County – Town of Middleton
- Door County – Town of Nasewaupee
- Green County – Town of Decatur
- Milwaukee County – Village of Hales Corners
- Waukesha County – Village of Elm Grove



Map showing EAB emergence by Growing Degree Days. Yellow is nearing initial emergence. Pink is EAB emergence.

If you wish to receive EAB News updates through GovDelivery, go to http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/index.jsp and subscribe.

EAB UW pesticide documents updated – the EAB insecticide treatment documents put out by UW Extension have been updated for homeowners and for professional pesticide applicators. Homeowners should evaluate their trees to determine which ones are suitable for treatment and when they should start treatment, and then decide whether to do the treatments themselves or

hire a professional arborist. If the trees are larger than 15" diameter (47" circumference of the trunk at chest height) then it is recommended to hire a professional as they can maximize pesticide uptake on those large trees.

Gypsy moth – caterpillars are out now. Concerned homeowners can put up sticky barrier bands, or start putting up the burlap bands on host trees. Burlap bands are useful when older caterpillars seek the shelter of the burlap, allowing homeowners easy access to collect and kill the caterpillars. More info, including info on spraying for gypsy moth can be found here.

Gyspy moth caterpillars, 2nd instar life stage with shed skins.

Larch casebearer – if you had tamarack defoliation last year due to larch casebearer, be prepared for defoliation this year. Larch casebearer caterpillars overwinter as young caterpillars and are already feeding on the needles as the needles expand. As the insides of those needles are eaten, the remainder of the needle turns straw colored or brown. Browning can tend to show up abruptly, even though the damage has been occurring all spring. Last year a number of counties in north central Wisconsin had significant defoliation across large areas from this insect.

Tamarack needles emerging and already being fed upon by larch casebearer (Photo taken 5/13/15). Pale needles have been mined out.

Pine bark adelgid – Pine Bark Adelgid is a little insect covered by white wool that sucks the sap of white pines. It is originally from Europe, and now has spread throughout the range of white pine. Although the white coating on the bark makes it look like a heavy infestation, the damage that they do is generally very minimal, and no disease is introduced. When the adelgids disperse to the branches they can cause some needle stunting, and excretion of honeydew can cause sooty mold to grow on the needles, which can also cause stunting or decline. Ladybugs and their larvae enjoy eating the adelgids and can do a reasonable job at control. Typically no additional control is recommended, although dormant oils or a general insecticide can be effective at controlling them. More info on pine bark adelgids.

Pine Bark Adelgid on white pine bark. Photo by Randy Williams.

Pseudoscorpion – these tiny critters are called pseudoscorpions or sometimes book scorpions. They're not a real scorpion, they just get their name from the pinchers that make them look like a scorpion. They are a predator, although they're quite small so they eat small things. Click here for more information about pseudoscorpions.

Pseudoscorpion. Photo by Cole Couvillion.

Diseases

Ash anthracnose – be on the lookout for ash suddenly dropping their leaves. Every year I get a number of reports of this, and the cause is usually ash anthracnose. When ash leaves are infected early with anthracnose the tree drops those leaves. If they drop enough leaves, the trees will send out an additional set of leaves to replace them. The first reports often roll in the last week of May or first week of June. Confounding these diagnoses will be the presence of frost damage on some of the ash leaves as well. Frost damage will typically show up as blackened dead tips or edges of the leaves, whereas anthracnose will cause dead patches that will cause the leaves to be distorted.

Anthracnose infected leaves.

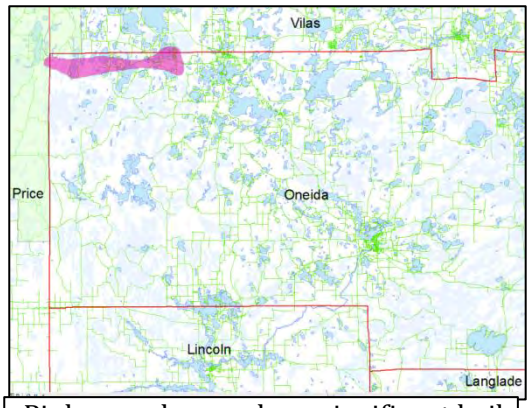
Additional disease reading:

UW Extension has produced a Fact Sheet on Phytophthora Root Disease
http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/pddc/files/Fact_Sheets/FC_PDF/Phytophthora_Root_Rot_of_Christmas_Trees.pdf

Other/Misc.

Hail damage – conifers are turning brown/tan in northwestern Oneida County and some other areas of the northwoods. The damage is from a hail storm last fall (Sept, 2014) which left a wide swath of damage (shown in pink on map below) that included damage to houses and roofs. The damage area may be much larger than shown here … this is just what I saw on the ground on the day that I was up there. My counterpart in Spooner said he is getting reports from Price, Sawyer, and Washburn Counties as well. Storm trackers reported quarter size and larger hail in numerous

areas from this storm, so I'll update the map as I get more info. I created a document with my observations, pictures, and some things to watch for this summer in different species. If you didn't already get this document and would like a copy please email me. Below are some photos of the damage that is suddenly becoming apparent.



Pink area shows where significant hail damage was noted. Preliminary map; there may be additional areas of damage.

Hail damage. In this photo the thin crowns in the mature red pine, and the red color in the young red pine (lower left), and the yellowing balsam fir (middle right) are all due to damage from the hail. Photo by Paul Cigan.

The storm came from the west, and western sides of trees were most heavily impacted as shown here.

Extensive hail wounds along white pine branch.

NR40 updated – the changes to the NR40 Invasive Species Rule have been approved and went into effect May 1, 2015. Forest insect and disease changes include: beech scale has been removed from NR40, EAB has been down-listed to Restricted, and Mountain Pine Beetle, Walnut Twig Beetle, and the pathogen causing Thousand Cankers Disease have been added to the Prohibited list. More info on NR40 can be found here.

Sapsucker damage - you've probably all seen the damage from sapsuckers. Those methodical rows of holes pecked into the bark of some trees, just down to the cambium layer, repeated in rows or grids, and occasionally blanketing a tree. They do this to create sap flow, which they later come back to and lick up using their brush-

Yellowbellied sapsucker.

like tongue. Apparently they will also eat small insects that are attracted to the sap, but their primary focus is the sap. The tree usually grows over these holes within a year or two, although the external signs in the bark will remain for many years. Sapsuckers have favorite trees and will come back to the same tree year after year to drill new holes. As a general rule this damage doesn't usually kill the tree, but, because the wounds do go through the bark into the live portion of the tree, this allows stain fungi to be introduced. In a log, this defect is called "bird peck".


Sapsucker damage to birch.

As luck would have it, if you want to call it luck, I have a sapsucker pair that has decided a spruce tree in my yard is pretty appealing (and they're feeding at the jelly feeder I have out for the orioles). At right is some of the damage that they did in just a couple days.


Staining caused by sapsucker damage to the tree, commonly called "bird peck".


Methodical rows of sapsucker damage on spruce.

Additional reading:
Invasive plant look-a-likes. Check out this "booklet" on invasive plants and some look alikes that you may mistake for them, including several tree species.

Of Historical Interest

25 years ago, in 1990 –

- **Larch needlecast** – *Mycosphaerella laricina* (Hartig) Neg. Defolitaion of a 10-acre plantation of European larch in Polk County (T37N R15W, Sec. 32) was severe. This plantation has been defoliated by *M. laricina* annually.
- **Larch Sawfly** – *Pristiphora erichsonii* (Hartig). Defoliation of 10-year-old European and Japanese larch was reported in Forest and Shawano counties whereas nearby eastern larch was not defoliated.

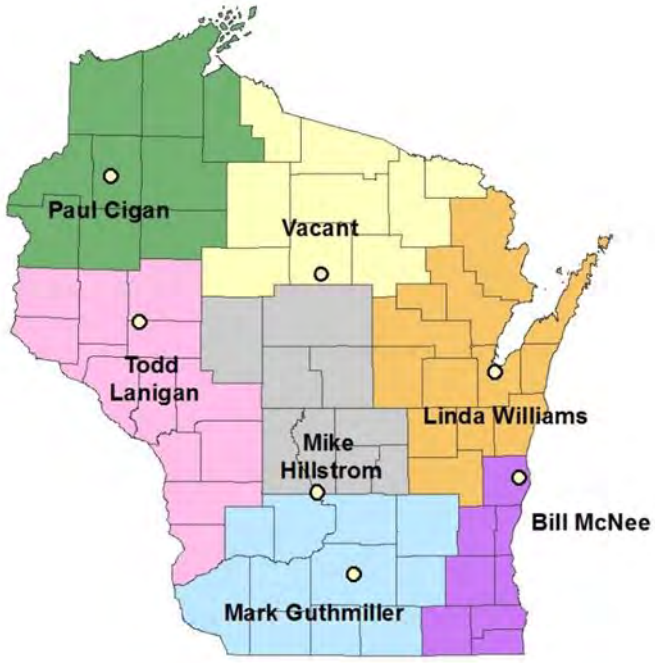
60 years ago, in 1955 –

- **Larch Sawfly** – *Pristiphora erichsonii* (Htg.) In general, the larch sawfly was prevalent in larch stands over the entire northern half of the state. Some stands were completely defoliated in each county; other suffered light to moderate defoliation. In the central portion of the state, severe defoliation was reported in Waupaca and Monroe Counties and light defoliation in Jackson, Clark, and Outagamie Counties.
- **Larch casebearer** – *Coleophora laricella* (Hbn.) The infestation was general throughout the northern half of the state. Heavy populations were observed in Marinette, Shawano, Price, Clark, and Waupaca Counties. Other counties reported light to medium damage.

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/

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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.