

Northeast Wisconsin Forest Pest Update

February 16, 2010

Topics covered this month:

Insects:

Banded elm bark beetle
EAB
Gypsy moth
Hemlock woolly adelgid
Snowfleas

Diseases:

Annosum found in Oconto County
Diplodia study in state nurseries
Sirococcus shoot blight
Sooty mold

Other:

Annual forest health report
Herbicide tables
Pesticide applicator training

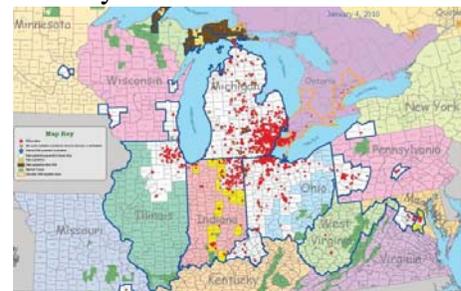
Insects

Banded Elm Bark Beetle - The banded elm bark beetle, *Scolytus schevyrewi*, has been detected for the first time in Wisconsin. Three suspect beetles collected from Lake Kegonsa State Park were confirmed as *S. schevyrewi* on December 18. Banded elm bark beetle (BEBB) is native to China, central Asia, and Russia, and attacks elm. Although BEBB can transfer the spores of Dutch Elm Disease from one tree to another we already have a couple of bark beetles in Wisconsin that do this, our native elm bark beetle *Hylurgopinus rufipes* and the European elm bark beetle *Scolytus multistriatus*. Since this is just one more bark beetle attacking elm the average person probably will not notice any obvious impacts from the presence of BEBB beyond what our current bark beetles and Dutch Elm Disease already do to the trees. For more info check out the pest alert http://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/palerts/banded_elm_beetle/beb.pdf



Emerald Ash Borer – from Bill McNee. Staff from the Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) have been conducting winter surveys for EAB near the known detections. DATCP crews recently came to downtown Green Bay and peeled the remainder of the tree in which a trap caught an EAB adult last summer. No EAB larvae were found in that tree. Previous visual surveys and tree peeling in downtown Green Bay have also not found any infested trees.

Recent DATCP survey work in Franklin and Oak Creek (Milwaukee County) has found additional infested trees



that bring the known infested area up to about 3,800 acres (~6 square miles). One infested tree is only about 650' north of the Racine County line. Tree ring analysis of the infested area shows that the EAB was present by 2005.

The Riveredge Nature Center in Newburg will host an EAB field day, 'Small-Scale Logging & Slowing the Spread of EAB,' on Saturday, February 20. The session will begin at 12:30 PM and last 4 hours. The session is open to the public as well as tree care professionals. The agenda can be found at <http://riveredgenaturecenter.org/default.aspx?id=244>. If you have questions, please contact Luke Saunders at (608) 957-6510 or Luke.Saunders@wisconsin.gov. Visit www.riveredge.us for directions.

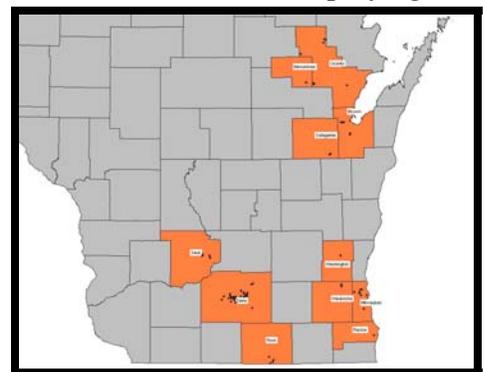
UW Extension will host an EAB education event in Kimberly on March 18, to provide the green industry with current EAB information and management advice. This session will include live demonstrations of insecticide application equipment. The event will be held at Liberty Hall in Kimberly (800 Eisenhower Dr.) and will run from 10:30-3:30. The event is free, but pre-registration is required by March 12. For more information go to [http://www.co.brown.wi.us/i/t/uw_extension/Hort%20-%20EAB%20Mtg%20Brochure%20with%20registration%20form\(1\).pdf](http://www.co.brown.wi.us/i/t/uw_extension/Hort%20-%20EAB%20Mtg%20Brochure%20with%20registration%20form(1).pdf) or contact Vijai Pandian at the Brown County UW Extension office (Pandian_VV@co.brown.wi.us or 920-391-4654).

DATCP is currently taking applications for seasonal positions as an EAB Trapper. Trappers will assemble and set approximately 250 purple panel traps in pre-determined locations, check the traps mid-season, and take them down at the end of the trapping season. Positions pay \$13/hr plus mileage for use of your vehicle. Cover letters and applications must be postmarked no later than **February 26, 2010**. For details and an application, visit: <http://www.datep.state.wi.us/arm/environment/insects/emerald-ash-borer/pdf/EABTrapperJobDescriptionApplication2010.pdf>.

Gypsy Moth – from Bill McNee. Maps of the proposed 2010 DNR Suppression Program treatment areas are now available online at www.gypsymoth.wi.gov. Statewide, approximately 5,700 acres are proposed for treatment and ~1,200 acres are in NER counties (map below). The website also has plenty of gypsy moth management advice and brochures to steer callers to.

An updated list of for-hire aerial applicators is now available. For a copy, email bill.mcnee@wisconsin.gov. This list can be given to callers who are interested in aerial spraying for gypsy moth or other defoliating insects. There are currently only two applicators licensed for aerial spraying in residential areas (defined as more than one residence per five acres being sprayed). It's too late to add any treatment areas to the DNR Suppression Program for spraying this spring. Applicators should be contacted as soon as possible, because it's only a little more than two months before the gypsy moth caterpillars will begin hatching.

Lately I've been hearing about a high level of interest in organizing private spraying in northern Oconto and central Marinette Counties, as well as from the west side of Boulder Lake in Langlade County. Last year there was only about 700 acres of light defoliation in these areas, but the signs are pointing to another major gypsy moth outbreak in this area.



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid – hemlock woolly adelgid has not been found in Wisconsin but winter is a great time to watch for this invasive insect. The adults complete development during the winter and are a nice fuzzy white mass at the base of the hemlock needles (right). They are often easiest to spot on the undersides of branches. Hemlock woolly adelgid has **not** been found in Wisconsin so if you do spot it please let me, or your regional forest health specialist, know that you've found something.



Hemlock woolly adelgid is a small exotic insect from Asia similar to a fuzzy aphid or fuzzy scale. It was first found in the US in 1924 and has spread through NJ, PA, MA, CT, southern NY, and is continuing to spread, killing hemlock wherever it goes. HWA attaches itself to the base of a needle and sucks the sap of hemlock. The population of HWA on a tree will become so numerous that they will cause stunting, early needle loss, and tree death within a few years. They attack all ages of hemlocks anywhere that the tree can be found, from pure stands to yard trees.

Snow fleas - days of bright sunshine can bring out the snow fleas. Snow fleas may look like pepper or ashes on the surface of the snow, except that they move and jump! In the photo at right you can see the dark snow fleas crawling on ice crystals. Snow fleas are not really fleas at all and they do not bite people or pets, but they may jump on you. These tiny, black, jumping insects are actually called Collembola, or springtails, and they eat decaying plant matter. They are present during the entire year, but are most noticeable when they appear on the snow.



The Wisconsin DNR EEK! Website has information about snow fleas, check it out at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/EEK/critter/insect/snowflea.htm>

Diseases

Annosum found in Oconto County - Annosum root rot was recently confirmed for the first time in Oconto County in a red pine plantation, located about 5 miles west of the city of Gillett. The plantation was established in 1959 (51 years old) and has been thinned 3 times (last thinning was in 2000). The map at right shows the counties where we have confirmed annosum in at least one location.



Prevention is the best tool we have for managing Annosum. In counties where Annosum is known to occur, and in neighboring counties, it is important to use a preventative stump treatment immediately following a conifer harvest (within 24 hours of a tree being cut) to prevent any new infections. Some loggers have put spray attachments on their equipment that will allow treatment as the tree is cut, or application using backpack applicators works well too. There are no curative treatments to eliminate

Annosum after it is established in your stand so prevention is important. More info on management can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Fh/annosum> which also includes information on Red Pine Pocket Mortality which is a separate issue affecting red pine.

If you write forest management plans and need a document on Annosum to include in your plans check out http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/annosum/pdf/Annosum_Factsheet.pdf

Diplodia study in state nurseries – in the annual forest health report (more info below) you’ll find more information regarding the testing of red pine seedlings from state nurseries for the presence of Diplodia. After some hard work from the nurseries to remove inoculum sources you’ll be delighted to know that in 2009 the infection rate was less than 5% in all state nurseries. For more info on Diplodia please refer to my December 2009 NER Pest Update or check out the USFS document <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/fidls/diplodia/diplodiafidl.htm>

Sirococcus shoot blight - Sirococcus is a fungal disease that can sometimes be mistaken for Diplodia. The Sirococcus fungus infects the new needles and can affect new candles as they



emerge in the spring, causing a shepherd’s crook. Red pine seedlings that are under a red pine overstory can become infected with Sirococcus and die. It can make it difficult to manage red pine in a multi-storied stand or to regenerate red pine via shelterwoods due

to the presence of Sirococcus as well as Diplodia on the mature red pine which can then infect, and



Photo by Steve Katovich, USFS.

kill, understory red pine. The map above, recently updated by Kyoko Scanlon, shows counties where Sirococcus has been confirmed based on reports from DNR, DATCP, and UW PDDC. Sirococcus

can infect red pine, spruce, and fir; the table at right shows which host it has been found on in each county.

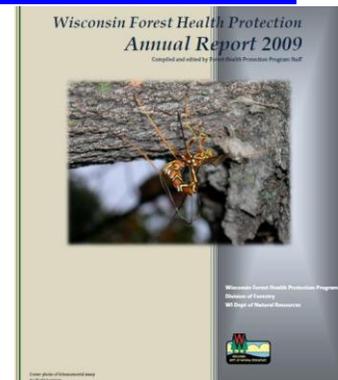
County	Red pine	Spruce	Fir
Bayfield	X		
Brown		X	
Douglas	X		
Forest	X		
Kenosha	X		
Kewaunee		X	
Langlade		X	
Lincoln		X	
Manitowoc		X	
Marinette			X
Milwaukee		X	
Oconto	X		
Oneida	X	X	
Ozaukee	X		
Price		X	
Sawyer	X		
Sheboygan		X	
St. Croix		X	
Vilas	X	X	
Washburn	X		

Sooty mold – in the December pest update I reported that young white pine in some areas of Shawano and Menominee Counties were almost completely covered in a fairly dense layer of sooty mold (right). Since then additional reports have come in from Marinette County and along the border with the UP. As insects like scales and aphids feed on the needles, they excrete a sticky, somewhat sweet substance, called honeydew, which is the perfect medium for growing sooty mold. Sooty mold can cover the surface of leaves and needles, effectively blocking those leaves and needles from photosynthesizing, causing yellowing and sometimes mortality of needles and leaves. If you have been seeing this “sooty mold gone crazy” in your travels around Northeast Wisconsin please let me know where you saw it.



Other/Misc.

Annual forest health report – the annual Forest Health Report for 2009 is available. This document reviews the major forest health issues that we saw in 2009 and gives updates on the research projects and special projects that the forest health program has been working on. It is a large document, 8M in size, but it’s well worth the time it takes to load! <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/AnnualReport/AnnualReport2009.pdf>



Herbicide tables – some of you may not be aware that updated pesticide tables (herbicide tables) are posted on the DNR webpage, they were last updated on 10/2009. These tables give you information on what pesticides that can be used in forestry and which species of plants they are indicated for, including exotic, invasive plants, or native plants, both woody and herbaceous. Links to the tables can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Fh/weeds/herbicides.htm>

Pesticide applicator training - there will be a one-day Forestry Pesticide Applicator Training session on Friday, April 9, in Schofield, WI. There will be an examination at the end of the session. The session will cover all aspects that a forestry pesticide applicator should know. There will also be a 16-minute video that explains how a spray attachment to a processor will work to apply a fungicide to a fresh cut stump to prevent Annosum root rot. The target audience for this session is loggers interested in fungicide applications during harvesting to prevent Annosum root rot as part of their contract. However, anyone who has a desire to be certified as a pesticide applicator in the Forestry category is welcome to register. It costs \$25 for a one-day training session, plus \$45 for your training manual that includes a test fee, totaling \$70. If a logger chooses to count this training as credits to be SFI (Sustainable Forestry Initiative) trained, he/she will be able to do so with an additional charge of \$35 to FISTA. This SFI part will be separate from the required pre-registration to UW Extension.

Pre-registration is easy. You can either go online or fill out a card and pay by check. For online pre-registration, go to <http://ipcm.wisc.edu/pat>, and click on Register online. Or you can complete

a Commercial Applicator Training registration card and send the card and check to the PAT office. Cards are available from your county Extension office or from the PAT office. A supervisor may register and pay for multiple employees if that is their desire. Make sure every applicator has his/her own copy of the training manual. No sharing is allowed. Please note that the training session fee is non-refundable unless a session is cancelled. The deadline is March 26, but pre-register early as it may fill up quickly!

You don't need to attend a session to get an applicator's license, most programs can be done by self study and then taking the exam.

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://gypsymoth.wi.gov>

Northeast Region Pest Update produced by:

Linda Williams

Forest Health Specialist

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - Northeast Region

Linda.Williams@wi.gov

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

For more information contact:

Bill McNee

NER Gypsy Moth Suppression Coordinator

920-662-5430

Bill.McNee@wi.gov

Linda Williams

NER Forest Health Specialist

920-662-5172

Linda.Williams@wi.gov

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.