

Northeast Wisconsin Forest Pest Update

April 15, 2010

Topics covered this month:

Insects:

Ash Bark Beetle
Eastern Tent Caterpillar
Emerald Ash Borer
Gypsy Moth
Mourning Cloak Butterflies
Ticks

Diseases:

Annosum Webpage Updated
White Pine Blister Rust

Other:

Tree-age Insecticide Update

Insects

Ash Bark Beetle - when examining your ash trees for Emerald Ash Borer you might find exit holes from some of our native



insects that attack ash, such as the ash bark beetle which creates a small round hole, approximately 1mm in diameter. We have 3 different bark beetles that attack ash. Adult beetles bore into bark to spend the winter and are emerging now (right). Galleries or tunnels underneath the bark (left) are created by females as they lay their eggs. The eggs hatch and the larvae chew their own smaller galleries as they feed. This kind of damage can kill the tree or can kill branches.



Eastern Tent Caterpillar - small webs created by Eastern Tent Caterpillar are appearing already on wild cherry trees (right with pen for size comparison). I noticed the first webs in Oconto County on a crabapple tree on April 11. Due to the warm spring the caterpillars are hatching earlier than past years (typically the end of April). The caterpillars are capable of completely defoliating the tree that their web nest



is located in. They will feed outside the web nest and return to the nest to rest. Cherry is a favored species and you'll often see Eastern Tent Caterpillar webs in small cherries along

roadsides during the spring. Cherry generally handles this defoliation well, sending out a second set of leaves later in the season. Last year central Wisconsin had very high populations of this caterpillar and I anticipate similar populations of this native insect in the central counties again.

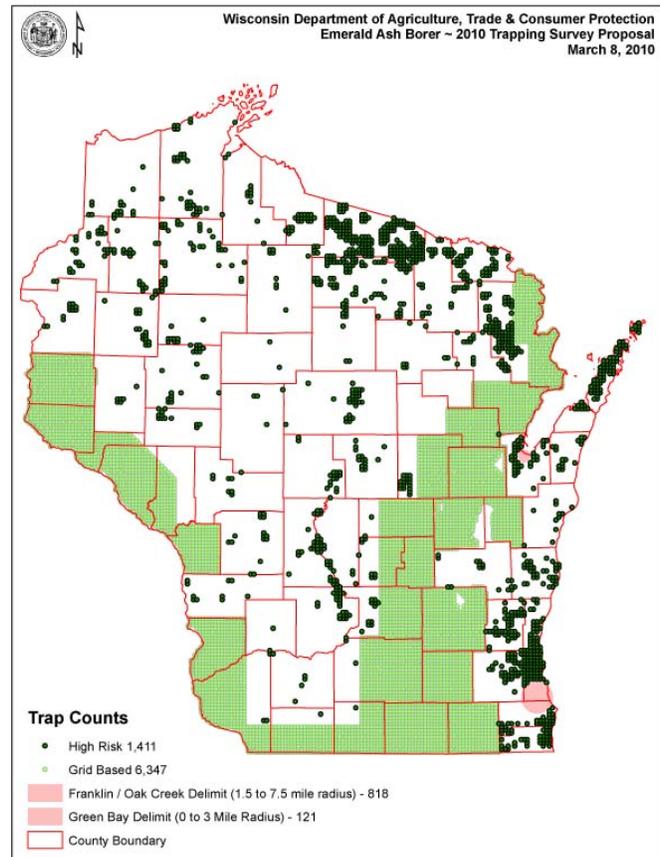
People may mistake this caterpillar for gypsy moth. Although gypsy moth eggmasses are hatching right now (more info below), gypsy moth do not create webs like Eastern Tent Caterpillar does.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) – from Bill McNee. The DNR Forest Health Program’s revised EAB silvicultural recommendations are available online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/PDF/EABWIManagementGuidelines.pdf>. These guidelines were updated to provide management advice in the vicinity of known EAB infestations.

New EAB detections of note since last month’s pest update: Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and Belvidere, Illinois (a few miles from Rockford).

The proposed 2010 national EAB trapping project will focus on counties surrounding quarantined counties, as well as along the Mississippi River. Wisconsin is anticipated to have 8,700 purple panel traps on a 1.5 square mile trapping grid (green areas on the map). Additional traps will be placed around the previous EAB detections in Green Bay and Franklin-Oak Creek (pink circles), and at high-risk sites around the state (green dots).

Some of the state parks (including Peninsula State Park in NER) will test a new ‘double-decker’ design which uses 2 of the purple panel traps placed on a pole. Traps will be in use between May and September.



Gypsy Moth – from Bill McNee. Wisconsin’s gypsy moths have begun to hatch due to the warm spring we’ve had so far! Egg mass hatch (right) was seen in Beloit on Friday, April 9 and in Madison on Monday, April 12. This is the earliest hatch seen since the Suppression Program began. Last year the first hatch was seen in Madison on April 27. The DNR Suppression Program is likely to be spraying in mid-May in most areas. Maps of treatment areas can be seen at www.gypsymoth.wi.gov.

The second half of April is a good time for homeowners to put up their sticky bands to prevent crawling caterpillars from getting into the tree. Wrap a



band of duct tape around the tree with the sticky side down and pressed into bark crevices. Then, smear a sticky horticultural product such as Tanglefoot or Stickem on the duct tape (right). Don't apply a sticky substance directly to the bark, and don't use motor oil or grease because this can poison a tree even if applied on the duct tape.



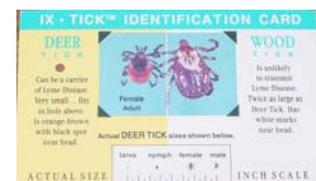
Homeowners considering insecticide treatments this spring should contact an arborist or tree service soon. The Wisconsin Arborist Association has a list of certified arborists available at www.waa-isa.org. Additional businesses offering insecticide treatments may be found in the phone book under 'Tree Service.' Homeowners can also purchase insecticides at garden centers and large retailers.

The 2010 list of for-hire aerial applicators is available on the state's gypsy moth website, www.gypsymoth.wi.gov. Callers interested in aerial spraying for gypsy moth or other defoliating insects can be referred to this website for the list and a guide to organizing private spraying. Be cautioned that an applicator may be unable to set up spraying that would occur next month.

Mourning Cloak Butterflies – I saw the first Mourning Cloak butterflies (*Nymphalis antiopa*) on March 16, just minutes after I sent out my March pest update. 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 just how tiny deer ticks are (especially the immature ticks) until you see them in person.



Diseases

Annosum Webpage Updated – by Kyoko Scanlon, DNR Forest Pathologist. Please check out the updated DNR Annosum webpage at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Fh/annosum/>. Highlights of the changes include

- A new county distribution map that includes Oconto County
- Expanded "prevention page" (click on "prevention page" at the middle part of the front page)
- Updated publications (access from the "Publications" section at the front page)
- Economic analysis report is included in the "Publications" section

Special thanks to DNR Forestry Web specialist, Lori Compas, for making all the changes. We are also working on adding some fungicide application videos to our website. So, stay tuned!

Hardcopies of the two recently revised brochures, "Annosum Root Rot and Red Pine Pocket Mortality" and "Annosum Root Rot: Biology, Symptoms, and Prevention" are also available upon request. If you'd like a hardcopy, please let contact Kyoko at Kyoko.Scanlon@wi.gov.

White Pine Blister Rust - blister rust causes a canker on white pine which can girdle the branches and the main stem. Blister rust cankers will soon be producing orange pustules (right) which produce the spores of this fungus. This disease is specific to white pine but the disease cannot be transmitted directly from one tree to another, it must first move to an alternate host, *Ribes*. Spores that are produced on white pine can only infect *Ribes* (gooseberry) plants which will then produce spores later in the summer, those spores from the *Ribes* plants will then be able to infect a white pine tree, completing the life cycle.



If you have just a few blister rust cankers on branches of young trees you should prune off those branches. These branches can be spotted from a distance because they will be off-color (below, red arrow) or the foliage will have turned a rusty red color. Prune branches at the main stem. By doing so you've just saved your tree (at least from that particular canker). If the canker is located close to the main stem the fungus may have already grown into the main stem, in which case a canker will eventually form on the main stem. Cankers on the main stem will eventually girdle the tree, although in healthy trees with good growth rates this may take many years.



Canker on the off-color branch.

Blister rust spores must first infect a needle, and then grow into the branch that they will cause the canker on. White pine seedlings and saplings often have needles attached directly to the main stem which can allow the fungus an entry point directly into the main stem of the tree. Damage from a girdling canker may not be severe enough to cause tree decline and mortality for several to many years.

Other/Misc.

Tree-äge Insecticide Update – as of April 1, 2010, the Environmental Protection Agency has classified TREE-äge™ as a **restricted use pesticide** (RUP) due to the hazards the product poses to those who come in contact with the product.

As a result, any person purchasing, using, or directing the use of this product is now required to be a certified and licensed pesticide applicator. This includes any person assisting with any activity which the pesticide label requires of the applicator, including drilling the treatment holes.

In 2009, Wisconsin issued a special pesticide registration that allowed the use of TREE-äge™ in Wisconsin. At the time the product was not considered an RUP. The special registration and the special labeling that accompanied the product, expired on December 31, 2009. As of January 1, 2010 it is illegal to distribute or use TREE-äge™ that has this expired special registration labeling in Wisconsin.

If you still have TREE-äge™ with the expired special registration labeling (Section 24c), you may return the product to the point of purchase and exchange it for product with the new federal label affixed. The only containers that are legal for use in Wisconsin will state “Restricted use pesticide” at the top of the label.

Information on how to become a certified pesticide applicator so that you can purchase and use RUPs like TREE-äge™ can be found at University of Wisconsin's Pesticide Applicator Training Program webpage at <http://ipcm.wisc.edu/pat>

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.