

Northeast Wisconsin Forest Pest Update

October 15, 2010

Topics covered this month:

Insects:

Columbian Timber Beetle

Emerald Ash Borer

Gypsy Moth

Other:

Leaf Scorch

Marketing Dead Timber in the Midwest Document

New Forest Health Staff

Spruce Decline

Urban Ash Management Documents from last month's pest update

White Pine Browning

Diseases:

Beech Bark Disease

Insects

*information and photos in this document from Linda Williams unless otherwise noted.

Columbian Timber Beetle – some silver maple stands in my region have been affected by significant stain which I believe was caused by Columbian Timber Beetle. This staining causes logs to be reduced in grade. Columbian Timber Beetle does not kill the tree or weaken it, but does cause staining. Any new wood put on after an attack will be clear wood, although the staining caused by beetle attack will remain in the tree. A site visit was conducted to try to determine how to easily identify when a stand is affected by this insect which causes significant staining within the tree



but doesn't have any outwardly visible signs other than tiny round holes. After trying several

methods to easily test a tree we found that the only reliable method was to cut down a small tree and check both a horizontal section and a vertical section to look for the characteristic staining (right).



Insect samples were sent to Phil Pellitteri and were identified as Beech Timber Beetle but I suspect that we sampled at the wrong time to collect Columbian Timber Beetle adults. The staining patterns match Columbian Timber Beetle staining, with Beech Timber Beetle causing a lesser amount of staining. I am trying to schedule a day to get Phil Pellitteri and Ken Raffa to a site to further examine this problem which has not been reported until the last 4-5 years.

Emerald Ash Borer – from Bill McNee. Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) staff have nearly finished takedown of the 8,000 purple EAB traps hung earlier this year. A few traps were unreachable due to standing water, and will be removed later this fall. If you see a trap still hanging, please contact DATCP by emailing Jennifer.Statz@wisconsin.gov. They want to make sure that all traps are removed. These traps did not find EAB in any new Wisconsin counties this year.

Beginning October 1, businesses with EAB compliance agreements can move regulated materials out of quarantined counties to compliant processing locations. This movement can occur until the end of March, and all transported items must be processed before April 30 to ensure that EAB adults do not emerge from the materials. If there are regulatory questions, contact DATCP by emailing Robert.Dahl@wisconsin.gov. For questions about the movement of regulated articles to other states, contact Joann.m.cruse@aphis.usda.gov. Sample compliance agreements can be seen at www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov; click on ‘Resources’ at the top of the page.

A new multistate map of known EAB infestations has been produced, and is available at: http://www.emeraldashborer.info/files/MultiState_EABpos.pdf.

Glacierland Resource Conservation and Development is hosting a workshop on the mechanized removal and processing of urban trees. It will take place on November 10 and 11 in Oak Creek in Milwaukee County. An identical session will be run on each of the two days. Pre-registration for the 4 hour morning workshop is \$25 and includes lunch. For more information and online registration, visit www.glacierlandred.org and click on ‘Events’ to find the workshop information. Attendees will be able to observe removal and processing equipment in action.

Gypsy Moth – from Bill McNee. Now is the time for landowners and managers to look for gypsy moth egg masses (photo) to predict the pest’s population size and potential damage to trees next year. For more information, visit www.gypsymoth.wi.gov or read our recent news release available at http://www.dnr.wi.gov/news/DNRNews_Article_Lookup.asp?id=1509

Populations remain high enough to justify aerial spraying in many areas of northeast Wisconsin even though there was a die-off of the caterpillars in June due to diseases. High egg mass numbers have been seen in parts of Marinette, Menominee, Oconto and Shawano Counties. Additional areas may be identified once the communities begin their egg mass surveys.

Communities should contact their county coordinator soon if they are considering participation in the DNR Suppression Program to spray next year. County coordinators must apply by early December of this year for spraying in 2011. Information on the Suppression Program, egg mass survey instructions and a list of county coordinators are available at www.gypsymoth.wi.gov.



A preliminary map of gypsy moth distribution in western Wisconsin and adjacent states is available online at: <http://da.ento.vt.edu/results3.html>. The traps have picked up a large jump into northeastern Iowa. It remains to be determined if this is due to wind blowing male moths or an established infestation is present.

Diseases

Beech Bark Disease - Three DNR publications on beech bark disease are now available for downloading from the DNR website, <http://www.dnr.wi.gov/forestry/FH/bb.htm>. They are:

[Beech Bark Disease: Best Management Practices for Reducing the Movement of the Beech Scale](#)

[Homeowner's Guide: How to Detect and Control Beech Bark Disease](#)

[How to Identify the Beech Scale in the Field](#)

It was noticed that heavily infested beech trees in Michigan were turning color prematurely because of the additional stress placed on the trees. Based on this observation, we decided to do an aerial survey to see if we could identify areas of Door County that were showing BBD impacts. The only areas where we could see the premature color change were at the sites where heavy beech scale populations or BBD mortality were already known.



Other/Misc.

Leaf Scorch - Leaf scorch is not a leaf disease but a result of the environment that the tree is living in. Scorch can be caused by



reflection of the sun off a nearby surface (a building, car, or cement) or a tree can be predisposed to scorch if it is lacking a needed nutrient. In either case the leaf starts to brown out either at the leaf edges



(right) or between the veins of the leaf. The oak leaves at left have severe scorch with only the mid-veins remaining green. The damage this year is probably

related to the sudden change from plenty of moisture for most of the spring and early summer to a suddenly dry period in late summer. Since this is not a leaf disease there are no treatments once you notice the damage.

Marketing Dead Timber publication - A new US Forest Service publication co-authored by Bill McNee is now available. "Marketing Dead Timber in the Upper Midwest" can be downloaded at: http://na.fs.fed.us/pubs/forest_products/marketing_timber/marketing_dead_timber_print.pdf Paper copies can also be obtained by emailing bill.mcnee@wisconsin.gov

New Forest Health Staff – a new forest health specialist was hired to cover the central part of the state. The Forest Health program is restructuring so that each staff will be responsible for all insect/disease issues in their area, eventually the forest health specialist for each area will handle all of the issues, including gypsy moth.



Towards that end, we have hired a new Forest Health FTE to cover the central counties (shown in purple at right) including 3 counties from NER (Waushara, Marquette, and Green Lake). Mike Hillstrom (left) will be covering counties in the central Wisconsin area. He will be working out of the Wisconsin Rapids office and will be starting November 8.



Spruce decline – at the recent North Central Forest Pest Workshop a student reported on her completed research on spruce decline. She noted almost all of the white spruce stands in her study were in a state of decline and that plantations were more vulnerable to decline than natural stands, perhaps because they were planted off site for spruce. She noted that as trees got older the growth continued to decrease starting at about age 30. Some of the problems she noted in her stands included rhizosphaera needlecast in all stands, effects of a region-wide spruce budworm outbreak from 2003-2007, and higher mortality in stands on silt soils. She concluded that based on her research it is indeed a decline syndrome because it's a combination of abiotic and biotic factors, does cause mortality, and it is extensive and ongoing.

Urban Ash Management document from last month – how many of you read the document on Managing Ash in Wisconsin's Urban Forests? If you work with urban ash trees or have folks asking you questions about urban ash trees, you should check out this document! I asked DNR Urban Foresters Tracy Salisbury (NER) and Kim Sebastian (SOR) to give some additional information on the guidelines, here's what they say:

If you are the person responsible for trees in your community and aren't sure what, if anything, to do about your ash trees before EAB shows up in your town, take a look at the new ***Guidelines for Managing Ash in Wisconsin's Urban Forests***. Wisconsin's multi-agency Emerald Ash Borer Program gathered together a panel of agency, industry and university experts to develop these guidelines and recommendations to help minimize the impact of EAB on municipalities.

There are a total of 20 tactics each with a short description and links to more detailed references. The guide includes a table to help customize the mixture of tactics that's right for your community. The result should be an action plan that your community has the resources to implement. The ash management guidelines will point you in the right direction, but because

characteristics of each community's ash tree population vary widely, the guidelines do not make tree-by-tree recommendations.

There is no state mandate to implement these urban ash management tactics. It is up to individual local governments to adopt or adapt them as fits their situation and resources. The final decision on how to manage your community's ash trees is yours to make.

For EAB readiness information beyond ash tree management, please refer to the ***EAB Toolkit for Wisconsin Communities***. This toolkit is a compilation of resources for municipal EAB planning and response.

Guidelines for Managing Ash in Wisconsin's Urban Forests

<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/uf/pdf/ManagingUrbanAsh8-3-10.pdf>

Emerald Ash Borer Toolkit For Wisconsin Communities

<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/uf/eab/EABToolkitCD.zip>

Power Point presentation "***Emerald Ash Borer . . . Is Your Community Ready?***"

<http://dnrmedia.wi.gov/main/Viewer/?peid=43980272c99949b58066c3cfc9ff42be>

White pine browning – in the June pest update I covered an issue with white pine losing needles early in the spring, and then the crowns would look very thin. At the most recent North Central Forest Pest Workshop the regional update from Ontario, Canada reported very similar problems of widespread browning of white pine needles in the spring. They've noticed it for the last 8-9 years. Older needles turn brown and the trees take on a silvery sheen from a distance. They've noticed it in wet years and dry years as well, needles fall off during the growing season leaving trees with a sparse crown, if you go back the following year the tree might look fine, but then could be affected in another year. We were unable to find an exact cause and the folks from Canada are unsure of the exact cause as well so we'll have to keep an eye on it. This browning may cause reduced vigor and increased susceptibility to pests so it's worth watching.



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.