

Southern Region Forest Health Update

Wisconsin DNR, Forest Health Protection Unit

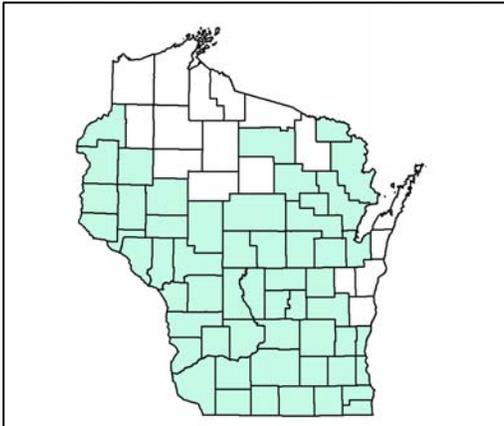
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Oak wilt found in Oneida County **Kyoko Scanlon (Forest Pathologist)**



Oak wilt has been found in blue counties.

Oak wilt was confirmed for the first time in Oneida County this summer. An infected tree was found about 4 miles southeast of Eagle River and 3 miles west of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. So far, only one tree has been found to be infected. Oak wilt is commonly found in the southern 2/3 of Wisconsin. However, recently the disease was found in northern Wisconsin counties, including Burnett (1997), Florence (1999), Barron (2002) and Langlade (2008) counties.

How did the disease reach Oneida County? Speculation is that infected wood was brought in from an area where oak is commonly found.

Fungal mats develop under the bark of trees, approximately 9-10 months after a tree dies from oak wilt. Very small sap beetles transport fungal spores by landing on fungal mats found beneath the cracked bark. The spores are then transmitted from the beetle body onto the fresh wound of a healthy oak tree while the beetle is feeding at the pruned or damaged site. That's how a long-distance introduction of oak wilt occurs.

Oak wilt is very common in southern Wisconsin. If an oak tree dies in your yard, don't move infected firewood to your cabin in northern Wisconsin. It is highly recommended that firewood be consumed locally. Wood with loose bark does not pose a danger of transmitting the disease.

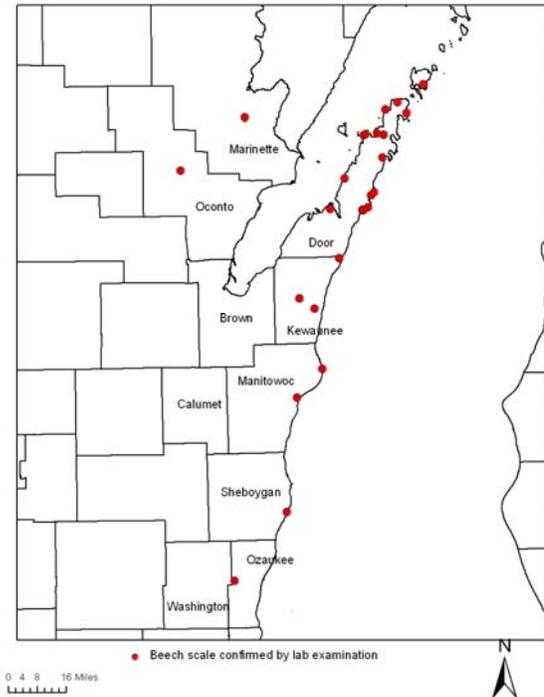
For more information about oak wilt biology and management, please visit the Wisconsin DNR website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/oakWilt>. The University of Wisconsin-Extension, oak wilt

publication entitled “Oak Wilt Management – What are the Options?” is available at <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/>.

Beech scale found in Ozaukee and Sheboygan Counties

Bill McNee (NER Gypsy Moth Suppression Program Coordinator)

Beech scale distribution in WI as of 8/13/2010
The beech scale (*Cryptococcus fagisuga*) has been confirmed in Door, Kewaunee, Marinette, Manitowoc, Oconto, Ozaukee, and Sheboygan Cos.



Beech scale, the insect part of the insect-fungus combination that causes beech bark disease, has been found in Ozaukee and Sheboygan Counties. Scale populations were very low at the two sites where the insect was found. Beech scale has now been found in 7 eastern counties (see map at left): Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Oconto, Ozaukee, and Sheboygan. Beech bark disease has only been found east of Sturgeon Bay in Door County.



Beech scale at low populations. Photo by Linda Williams.

For more information about the disease, visit: <http://www.dnr.wi.gov/forestry/FH/bb-symptoms.htm>.

Please report small balls of white wool on beech trees (see the photo above right) to a DNR forest health specialist if you should see them.

Ash yellows found in Iowa County

Kyoko Scanlon



Brooms on stumps infected with ash yellows

Ash yellows was confirmed in Iowa County for the first time this summer based on the presence of witches' brooms and a genetic test that was performed by Dr. Glen Stanosz, University of Wisconsin Department of Plant Pathology. The stand in Iowa County had a high component of white ash (60-70%) and was experiencing mortality of ash. The majority of ash in the stand were harvested in the summer of 2009, including dead, dying and apparently healthy trees. By the summer of 2010, brooms were prominent on many of the stumps. Plant samples were taken from brooms on stumps to confirm ash yellows.

Ash yellows is caused by a phytoplasma, a wall-less bacteria-like microorganism. Symptoms of ash yellows include yellow/sub-normal size foliage, slow twig growth, thin crown, branch dieback

and vertical cracks on the trunk near the ground, as well as brooms on the stem or at the base of the tree. Mortality of infected white ash in the forest setting has been observed.

Currently, ash yellows is currently confirmed in 26 Wisconsin counties (Brown, Calumet, Chippewa, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Door, Grant, Iowa, Jefferson, La Crosse, Manitowoc, Marathon, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Pierce, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Shawano, Sheboygan, Taylor, Walworth, and Waukesha).

Emerald Ash Borer Update

Bill McNee

The Wisconsin EAB Program's guidelines for urban ash trees have now been released. For a copy, visit:

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

The purple EAB detection traps are currently being taken down now that the beetle flight period has come to an end. Beetles have not been caught in monitoring traps since the beginning of August.

Here's what's happened to our known infestations/detections so far in 2010. For a current map of these areas, contact Bill or Mark.

- West Bend – infested trees found
- Cudahy – one beetle trapped
- Newburg – infestation size expanded
- Franklin/Oak Creek – infestation size expanded
- Kenosha – a second beetle trapped close to last year's trapped beetle
- Victory – infestation size expanded
- Green Bay – no additional beetles or larvae have been found since one beetle was trapped in 2009



Emerald ash borer detection trap
(Photo by Renee Pinski)

Other recent EAB detections of note:

- Tennessee – state's first find near Knoxville
- New York – several new infested counties
- California – infested firewood was intercepted at an agriculture inspection station. The wood was being carried by a pickup truck from Michigan and was intended for camping use.

Gypsy Moth Update

Bill McNee/Mark Guthmiller (DNR SCR Gypsy Moth Suppression Program Coordinator)

Now that egg laying has come to an end, interest in the gypsy moth has shifted to egg mass surveys to predict next year's infestation levels. It is that time of year to start thinking about suppressing damaging levels of gypsy moth next spring.

Many parts of Wisconsin experienced a population crash or decline due to the *Entomophaga* fungus and the NPV virus. There are, however, areas where survival was high enough to predict damage in 2011. Populations remain high enough to qualify for spraying in many areas north of Green Bay, and there are likely to be scattered spray sites in southern Wisconsin.



Small egg mass above
two old masses.

Egg mass surveys are the best predictor of next summer's defoliation levels. A high proportion of small egg masses is a sign that a gypsy moth population has been under stress from disease and possibly starvation. These populations are expected to decline next summer.

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.

To learn more about the DNR gypsy moth suppression program, three training sessions have been scheduled for local government staff interested in participating. Applications for this program are made through participating counties and some work will need to be done at the local level. Two sessions have been scheduled in southern Wisconsin:

Tuesday, September 28: Fitchburg, Dane County

- 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- WI DNR SCR Regional Headquarters, 3911 Fish Hatchery Road, Fitchburg
- Please register by contacting Mark Guthmiller at 608-275-3223 or by email at mark.guthmiller@wisconsin.gov

Thursday, September 30: Wauwatosa, Milwaukee County

- 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Milwaukee County Parks Office, 9480 Watertown Plank Rd., Wauwatosa
- Please register by contacting Bill McNee at 920-662-5430 or by email at bill.mcnee@wisconsin.gov

A third session will occur in the Green Bay area on Wednesday, Sept. 29. Contact Bill McNee if interested in more information on this session.

Minnesota's first find of a gypsy moth caterpillar recently occurred in Duluth. Its origin is currently being investigated. Minnesota authorities believe that the pest has been breeding in the state for several years but no caterpillars had been seen.

Keep a Look Out for Japanese Stilt Grass!
Tom Boos (DNR Forestry Invasive Plants Coordinator)

Japanese stilt grass is an annual grass that has been spreading very quickly through the eastern and southern parts of the US in the last 10 years. It germinates in late spring and grows to 6+ feet, sprawling across other vegetation and forming a dense mat. In addition to blocking out light and killing tree seedlings and understory plants, it alters the nutrients and drastically alters fire behavior in forests and grasslands. Stilt grass produces a large amount of fine fuel that causes very high temperatures, high flames and very complete (not patchy) burns. Seedlings can continue germinating all summer and plants that germinate as late as August can produce seed before frost kills the plants. Seed production is very high. Seedling density can be as high as 150 seedlings per square inch.

The current known range of stilt grass is from New England and New York to Texas. In the Midwest it is not yet known north of Indianapolis, but its presence in New York indicates it would likely thrive in Wisconsin. We do not want this plant spreading in the upper Midwest, so it is up to everyone to keep a look out for it. If you see anything that fits its description, go to one of the

websites listed below to ID it or send in a specimen or photo to determine what it is. Look for a sprawling grass with short leaves (3-5") that come off at right angles from the stem. The key ID characteristic is a silver stripe of hairs down the middle on the upper side of the leaves.



Japanese stilt grass, Silvery stripe of hairs along midrib;
photo by Elizabeth Czarapata (Source:
<http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/fact/japanstarass.htm>)

When it is found in the state it will need to be controlled before it develops seed that first year. Be certain to locate the entire population and look in the vicinity for other possible patches. Hand pulling can be effective for small patches and mowing or weed whacking for larger patches, but return to the site several weeks later to be sure all plants have been removed. Burn or otherwise dispose of any plants that have begun developing seeds. Grass specific herbicides can be effective if used in late summer but before seed development.

Anyone finding Japanese stilt grass, or any other invasive plant listed as prohibited under DNR's new NR 40 invasive species rule, should contact the DNR's Invasive Plant Coordinators right away.

You can email invasive.species@wi.gov or call Kelly Kearns at 608-267-5066 or Tom Boos at 608-266-9276. Do your part to look for this plant and make sure it gets contained before Wisconsin's forests are overrun by an invasive that makes garlic mustard look easy!

WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/fact/japanstgrass.htm> - WI DNR's fact sheet

<http://www.lukeflory.com/fire/management> - Management recommendations by the primary stiltgrass researcher

<http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/plants.asp> - WI DNR's list of prohibited and restricted invasive plants

Click on the link on the River to River CWMA web page for a short video showing the impacts of stilt grass and how to ID it.

<http://www.rtrcwma.org/stiltgrass/>

Thousand Cankers Disease found in Tennessee Kyoko Scanlon



Walnut twig beetle exit holes (photo by
Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State
University. Buawood.ora)

Thousand cankers disease (TCD) of walnut was confirmed in Tennessee in July. This is the first find of the disease within the native range of black walnut. The disease was previously known to be present only in western states. Experts believe that the pathogen has been in the Knoxville area for 15-20 years, causing decline and mortality. To date symptomatic trees have been observed over a 200 square mile area centered in the Knoxville detection site.

TCD is a combination of an insect (walnut twig beetle) and a fungus (*Geosmithia* spp.) that causes cankers. The name of the disease came from the large number of cankers found in dead trees. Signs and symptoms to watch for include crown

dieback, yellowing or flagging of branches, and tiny exit holes from the beetle. Wood samples have been taken to detect TCD from two stands in southern Wisconsin that have been exhibiting walnut dieback and mortality. To date, TCD hasn't been found in Wisconsin. If you observe walnut dieback and mortality in SOR, please contact Kyoko Scanlon or Mark Guthmiller.

A pest alert of the disease is available at: http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/insect/0812_alert.pdf and http://na.fs.fed.us/pubs/palerts/cankers_disease/thousand_cankers_disease_low_res.pdf.

Other Forest Health Issues: Anthracnose

Bill Mcnee

We continue to observe ongoing anthracnose on oaks (especially white), ash, maple, and willow in southern WI due to excessive and frequent rains.

Training/workshop opportunities

North Central Forest Pest Workshop Announcement

The 59th annual North Central Forest Pest Workshop will be held October 4-7 at the Osthoff Resort near Elkhart Lake. This year's theme is 'Changing Challenges and Innovation to Meet Them.'

Registration for the full Workshop is \$130. A block of rooms has been set aside at the government rate of \$70.00 for a single, \$130 for a double. This block of rooms will be held at these prices until September 3. To obtain a registration form and more information, visit:

<http://www.forestpathology.org/hosted/nfcfw/>.

Forestry Pesticide Applicator Training

There will be a one-day Pesticide Applicator Certificate Training for Forestry category in April 2011. It is scheduled to be held on April 8, 2011 in Dale's Weston Lanes in Weston, WI. This past spring, for the first time, Forestry Pesticide Applicator Training was held to specifically target loggers and foresters who were interested in applying fungicide to prevent annosum root rot. For the session in 2011, instructors plan to improve materials to further fit the needs of the targeted audience. However, anyone who is interested in obtaining a certificate in Forestry category will be encouraged to sign up. You can register on-line at

<http://ipcm.wisc.edu/Default.aspx?alias=ipcm.wisc.edu/pat>.

If you don't want to wait till next year, you can always self-study and take a test at one of the test-only sites located in Eau Claire, Green Bay, Madison, Waukesha, Spooner, and Wausau. For more information about certification exam procedures and test-only locations, please visit at

<http://ipcm.wisc.edu/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Gllwt7%2bH%2fnM%3d&tabid=95&mid=516>.

About the newsletter

"Southern Region Forest Health Update" is an informal newsletter created by the Wisconsin DNR, Forest Health Protection Unit. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide foresters in the Southern Region with regional up-to-date forest health information. This newsletter will be issued monthly during the growing season and on an irregular basis during winter as topics come up. We welcome your comments/suggestions on this newsletter and your reports on forest health problems you observed in your area. If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter, please contact Kyoko Scanlon at Kyoko.Scanlon@wisconsin.gov.

Previous issues of this update and regional forest health updates from NER, NOR and WCR, are available from the WI DNR Forestry website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/FH/intheNews/>. Articles were written by DNR forest health specialists who cover Southern Region unless otherwise noted.

Please report to us

We appreciate reports of forest health problems in your areas. Please contact the following staff for regional forest health problems/questions. Thank you.

Forest health and gypsy moth assistance staffing changes

Mark Guthmiller

Some temporary changes have been made to forest health staff assistance. For forest health assistance in southern Wisconsin, please check the list below of staff and forest health concerns they can assist you with. This would be a good page to print out and keep for future reference.

SOR Forest Health Assistance

Wisconsin DNR, Forest Health Protection Unit

Contacts for DNR staff, municipal foresters, and forestry cooperators

For general forest health issues

Jane Cummings-Carlson (northern part of SER Team area) 608-275-3273
Kyoko Scanlon (southern part of SER Team area, and SCR) 608-275-3275

For municipal level urban forest health issues (other than Gypsy moth and EAB)

Mark Guthmiller (SCR and SER Team area) 608-275-3223

For gypsy moth

Mark Guthmiller (SCR area) 608-275-3223
Bill McNee (SER Team area) 920-662-5430
Andrea Diss-Torrance (Statewide issues) 608-264-9247

For emerald ash borer

Mark Guthmiller (SCR Team areas) 608-275-3223
Bill McNee (SER Team area) 920-662-5430

Direct public inquiries regarding yard tree concerns to UW county or state extension offices or:

Emerald ash borer hotline 1-800-462-2803
Emerald ash borer e-mail DATCPEmeraldAshBorer@wi.gov
Gypsy moth hotline 1-800-642-MOTH

Additional Program Web-based Resources:

Forest Health web site: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/FH/>

Gypsy Moth web site: <http://www.gypsymoth.wi.gov>

Emerald ash borer web site: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh>

SCR Team Counties: Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland, Rock and Sauk

SER Team Counties: Kenosha(S), Milwaukee(S), Ozaukee(N), Racine(S), Sheboygan(N), Walworth(S), Washington(N), and Waukesha (N) (S=Southern Counties serviced by Kyoko Scanlon and N=Northern counties serviced by Jane Cummings-Carlson)