

Southern Region Forest Health Update

Wisconsin DNR, Forest Health Protection Unit

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Gypsy Moth Updates - Bill McNee/Mark Guthmiller

DNR gypsy moth spraying in southern Wisconsin is expected to begin during the week of May 3. This year's participating counties in southern Wisconsin are: Dane, Milwaukee, Racine, Rock, Sauk, Washington, and Waukesha. Rock County is expected to be the first area sprayed through the Suppression Program, with the Madison area, Sauk County, and the Milwaukee area to follow according to caterpillar development. Maps of treatment areas can be seen at www.gypsymoth.wi.gov.

There are two ways to find out when the spraying will occur:

- Sign up for daily e-mail notification of spray activities online at www.gypsymoth.wi.gov. Look for the Gypsy Moth E-mail Sign Up link and click on it to follow the instructions to subscribe.
- Call the Gypsy Moth Information Line at 1-800-642-6684 and select option 1 for a recorded message that is updated daily.

Spraying may occur any day of the week, and typically begins shortly after dawn. Spraying may continue into the afternoon if weather conditions remain favorable. Residents living in and near the spray areas should expect low-flying, loud airplanes that are yellow and single-engine, or are red and gray and have two engines. The planes will only spray in the treatment areas, although they will be seen flying elsewhere in the area. Residents in the treatment areas are encouraged to stay inside with doors and windows closed while the spraying is occurring and for 30 minutes after, in order to avoid direct exposure to the spray.

All sites in southern counties will be sprayed with 'Foray.' This insecticide contains *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (Btk), which is a naturally-occurring soil bacteria that kills gypsy moth caterpillars when they ingest it. The formulation of 'Foray' used is listed with the Organic Materials Review Institute as acceptable for use in certified organic food production.

The warm spring has sped up the gypsy moth's hatch and development so that it is at least a week ahead of average development. Egg mass hatch was first reported in Beloit on Friday, April 9, in Madison on Monday, April 12, and in Milwaukee on Thursday, April 15. This is the earliest hatch seen since the Suppression Program began. Last year the first hatch was seen in Madison on April 27.



Hatching larvae.

In late April and early May, homeowners can put up 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. Smear a sticky horticultural product such as 'Tanglefoot' or 'Stickem' on the duct tape. 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.



Sticky band stops caterpillars from crawling up the tree.

By the end of May, prepare burlap collection bands at least 12" above the sticky band. Tie a piece of string around the middle of the burlap and then fold the upper portion over the lower portion. Check them daily, and kill any caterpillars found beneath the burlap. Use rubber gloves if touching the caterpillars because the hairs can cause skin irritation. Sweeping them into a bucket of soapy water is an efficient way to kill them.



Burlap collection band.

Homeowners considering insecticide treatments this spring should contact an arborist or tree service as soon as possible. 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 in order to treat small trees. For more information on pesticides, go to www.gypsymoth.wi.gov and click the pesticide link under the DNR tab.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Updates - Bill McNee

New EAB detections of note since the last pest newsletter:

- Houston County, Minnesota (across the river from the EAB infestation at Victory, Wisconsin)
- Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan
- Belvidere, Illinois (a few miles from Rockford).

Here's a link to the official Minnesota news release about the most recent find in Minnesota:

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/en/news/releases/2010/nr-2010-04-29-eab.aspx>.

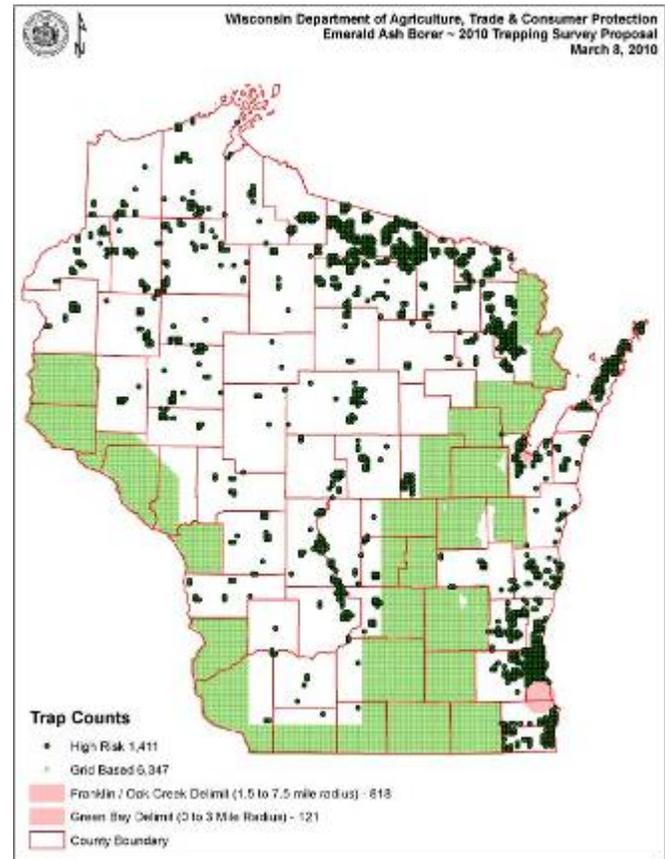
The DNR Forest Health Program's revised EAB silvicultural recommendations are available online at

<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/PDF/EABWIManagementGuidelines.pdf>. These guidelines were updated to provide management advice in the vicinity of known EAB infestations.

The 2010 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, most of which will be on a 1.5 mile trapping grid (green areas Tentative EAB trapping in Wisconsin this summer. on the state map) and at high-risk sites (dark green dots). Additional traps will be placed around the EAB detections in Green Bay and Franklin-Oak Creek (pink circles).

Some of the state properties (including Richard Bong State Recreation Area, Kettle Moraine State Forest, and Big Foot Beach, Pike Lake, Nelson Dewey and Wyalusing State Parks) will test a new 'double-decker' trap design which uses 2 of the purple panel traps placed on a pole. Traps will be in use between May and September.





(Left) Double-decker panel trap to be tested at several state parks.

(Right) Single panel EAB trap used in the trapping grid.

Firewood Updates - Bill Mcnee

Starting June 1 of this year, the '50 mile firewood rule' for state parks and forests is being reduced to 25 miles. The new rule states that firewood being brought into a state park or forest must:

- originate from within 25 miles of the campground on that state park or forest, or from within 25 miles of the state park or forest if there is no campground
- be from within Wisconsin
- not be from a quarantine area that does not already cover the park or forest

Dimensional lumber (such as 2-by-4s) and firewood certified by the Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection are exempt from this regulation. Campers with new or existing reservations are being notified of the change.

Eastern Tent Caterpillar- Kyoko Scanlon and Mark Guthmiller

As with many insects this spring, the eastern tent caterpillar got off to a quick jump start in hatching and creating their tents. The earliest report of caterpillar hatch came from Aaron Young, DNR Area Forestry Leader. He found caterpillars and small webs on his plum trees on April 2. The tents have become more noticeable over the last two weeks and some leaf defoliation is also showing up. The population of this native insect has been high the last few years. Based on very limited observations and reports it looks like some areas may continue to have high numbers. So far, Columbia, Dane, and Iowa counties appear to have some areas with high numbers of tent caterpillars.



1.



2.

- 1) Tents created by the Eastern Tent Caterpillar on a cherry tree, seen in Columbia County (Photo taken on April 19th, 2010)
- 2) A prunus species with some leaf defoliation evident already in Dane County (Photo taken April 27, 2010)

The eastern tent caterpillar (*Malacosoma americanum*) is native to Wisconsin and is often confused for gypsy moth. Though eastern tent caterpillar tents are found every year, occasionally its population reaches a high level. Infestations are commonly seen on open grown trees and trees on roadsides or along fence rows. The eastern tent caterpillar favors cherry and apple trees though it also feeds on some other deciduous trees, such as oak.



Near full-grown Eastern tent caterpillar with distinct crème stripe and pale blue side markings won't be evident for a couple weeks

The caterpillars hatch when the buds begin to open, and construct a silken tent on a fork of branches. They continue to feed for about 6 weeks and pupate. An adult is a reddish-brown moth.

If tents are within reach, tents can be broken up with a stick, and you can hand pick the caterpillars and step on them or wrap the silk tent, filled with caterpillars, using a stick and put them in a bucket of soapy water to kill them. A bacterial insecticide Btk (*Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*) can be effective to control young caterpillars. Btk has to be consumed by caterpillars, so it needs to be applied on to foliage. Treating a one or two foot band around the nest should help reduce numbers. There are also general use insecticides that are labeled to control eastern tent

caterpillars. Be sure to follow manufacture's label directions.

For more information about the eastern tent caterpillar, please check with a UW factsheet at <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/assets/pdfs/A2933.pdf>.

For more information about pest management and pesticides, please check with a UW Extension booklet, titled "Woody ornamentals: pest management in Wisconsin (A3597)" at <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/assets/pdfs/A2933.pdf>

Muckleheads, muffleheads, and chizzywinks: say what?! –Mark Guthmiller

While out checking on gypsy moth hatch at Devils Lake State Park a couple weeks ago, I encountered an outbreak of lake midges along the south entrance road to the park. Although similar looking as mosquito's, these critters are non-biting midges. Although they don't bite, the sheer numbers can make them a pest. Fisherman may know the larval stage of lake midges as "blood worms". Apparently, depending on the particular species present, midges may serve as an indicator of either poor or good water quality.

So if you knew one of the common names for these non-biting midges we could probably tell where you were from:

"Muckleheads" or "Muffleheads"- Great Lakes area

"Blind mosquito's" or "chizzywinks" – Florida

"Lake Flies" – "Canada".

Based on a news report this week regarding another outbreak of midges in Lake Winnebago, it appears Wisconsinites also refer to them as "Lake flies", don't you know there eh.

Check this NOAA site out that shows radar images of fly hatch from Lake Winnebago!

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/grb/?n=lakefly>

For more information: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_fly



Spruce needle chlorosis - Kyoko Scanlon

Needle chlorosis of spruce has been observed scattered throughout central and southern Wisconsin. One site in Richland County that was visited in September 2009 exhibited bright yellowing of older needles. Symptomatic trees were located in low areas of the hill. Foliage nutrient lab test revealed deficiency of several nutrients, most notably manganese. The level of manganese in the symptomatic needles was approximately 1/5 of non-symptomatic needles of the trees that were located in higher elevation. However, the soil test detected a high level of manganese in the soil.

The site was revisited in April of this year. By the time of the revisit, chlorosis on needles was much less visible on all of the trees that were symptomatic in September, 2009. In this case, it is suspected that possibly the above average rainfall from last spring saturated the soil to raise soil pH, and higher pH prevented spruce roots from absorbing some nutrients, such as manganese temporarily. Soil characteristic at the site was silt loam with 20-40 inches to bedrock. That may also have contributed to the temporary increase in pH. It is believed that as soil moisture level decreased, pH lowered, and the roots started to absorb necessary nutrients again. We hope this reverse symptom development will continue this spring as we are not receiving as much precipitation as last spring. The site will be revisited this fall.



Needle chlorosis in September 2009



Needle chlorosis in April 2010

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.

<p>SOR Forest Health Assistance Wisconsin DNR, Forest Health Protection Unit September 2009 to June 2010</p>

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
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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://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov/>

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)