

# West Central Region Forest Pest Update – 7/12/2010

(Todd J. Lanigan)

## Topics covered:

### Insects:

Jack Pine Budworm  
Gypsy Moth  
Pale Green Weevil

### Diseases:

### Other:

Homeowner Samples

### Insects:

**Jack Pine Budworm** – Populations are building in jack pine stands in Jackson, Juneau, and Monroe counties. There are three locations in Jackson County; 1.) Co Hwy O and Partridge Road; 2.) Co Hwy O and N Settlement Road; and 3.) between W Bauer Road, N Brockway Road and HWY 54. In Juneau County there is one location between 32<sup>nd</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup> streets, and Hwy 80 and Hwy 58. In Monroe County there is one location on Delaware Avenue between Deerwood Road and Co Hwy I.



Later this month the defoliated jack pine may have a reddish/brown color to them from the feeding damage. Some trees may look like they have been scorched by fire.

**Gypsy Moth** – I received a phone call about caterpillars feeding on red oak in Juneau County, east of Camp Douglas. The caterpillars feeding on the oaks turned out to be Gypsy Moth. The defoliation was very light, and the landowner had two good biological controls working for him. I found dead caterpillars on the trees that were infected with NPV and *Entomophaga maimaiga*.

NPV is a virus specific to gypsy moth and when the caterpillars die, they hang from the tree in an inverted “V”. NPV will affect the caterpillars, and cocoons. The egg mass can become infected if the female lays her eggs on a contaminated surface. When the caterpillars emerge from the contaminated egg mass the following spring, there is a high chance they can become infected with NPV as well. When you get into an area that is heavy with NPV, it smells like a really nasty road kill – at least to me it does.



*Entomophaga* is a fungal disease of gypsy moth. When the caterpillars die, they hang vertically with their heads down. The caterpillars back legs (prolegs) are frequently sticking straight out from their bodies. Newly killed caterpillars have soft bodies, and older dead caterpillars look dried out.



Mill Bluff State Park has the same situation going on as above - very light defoliation with NPV and *Entomophaga* killing the caterpillars.

**Pale Green Weevil** – I have seen a few Pale Green Weevils around, but I do not expect to see large numbers of these beetles. Their numbers should have peaked last month. This species will feed on strawberries to oaks.



### **Diseases:**

### **Other:**

If you get homeowner questions about yard tree problems, you can have the homeowner send samples to UW-Madison for identification/diagnosis. Here are the addresses that people can send samples in to for identification/diagnosis at UW-Madison.

#### **Disease Samples**

Brian Hudelson  
Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic  
Department of Plant Pathology  
University of Wisconsin - Madison  
1630 Linden Drive  
Madison, WI 53706-1598  
(608) 262-2863

There is a charge for culturing and diagnosis. It would be best to call Brian's number to find out what the cost is for the diagnosis work, what type of sample to take and how to ship the sample.

#### **Insect Samples**

Phil Pellitteri  
Entomology Department  
University of Wisconsin - Madison  
240 Russell Laboratories  
1630 Linden Drive  
Madison, WI 53706  
(608) 262-6510

There is no charge for this service. It would be best to call Phil's number to find out how to best prepare and ship the sample.

#### **Arthropod Proverbs/Sayings: (Yiddish)**

Worms eat you up dead (maggots?) and worries eat you up alive.

Previous issues of this update and regional forest health updates from NOR, NER, SCR/SER, and WCR are available from the WI DNR Forestry website at:  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/inthenews/>