West Central Region Forest Pest Update – 5/5/2010

(Todd J. Lanigan)

Topics covered:

Insects:	Diseases:	Other:
	Leaf/Needle Diseases	

Insects:

Diseases:

Leaf/Needle Diseases - With the intermittent wet weather we have been having so far this spring, you can expect to see fungal diseases popping up soon, if you have not seen some already. Here are some diseases you may be seeing. This is by far not a complete list of diseases or tree species that are susceptible to the diseases. For homeowners, the easiest control is to rake up whatever falls to the ground and get that material away from the tree(s).

Hardwoods

- **Anthracnose –** large brown areas of dead leaf tissue. Leaves will curl and/or shrivel up. Ash, maples, oaks (generally white), etc. are susceptible to this disease. If the disease is severe enough you may get some twig/branch dieback.
- **Leaf Blotch –** scattered brown areas of dead leaf tissue. If on the margin of the leaf, they can also curl up. Aspen, birch, maple, oaks, etc. are susceptible to this disease.
- **Leaf Spot –** small scattered brown areas of dead leaf tissue. Aspen, birch, maple, oaks, etc. are susceptible to this disease.
- **Tar Spot –** raised black spots on the leaf. Looks like tar dripped on the leaf. Silver maple very susceptible.
- **Apple Scab –** brown blotches on the leaves and possibly the fruit later on.
- **Leaf Blight –** new growth will turn black and the shoot can have a “Shepherd’s Crook” shape to it. Young aspen very susceptible.
- **Frost Damage –** leaves will be black in color and look somewhat wet or slimy. All hardwoods and conifers are susceptible.

Conifers

- **Diplodia Shoot Blight –** new growth killed and shoot can have a “Shepherd’s Crook” shape to it, or dead needles on the branches. Black fruit bodies may be present on the needle or under the needle fascicle. Jack, red, Scotch, and White pines, and Colorado blue spruce are susceptible to this disease. (Can resemble red pine shoot moth damage – check for hollowed out shoots on red pine).
- **Pine Needle Rust (Goldenrod Rust) –** cream colored blisters on the needles of red pine seedlings. Normally this disease does not kill the seedlings.
- **Cyclaneusma Needlecast –** cream colored blisters on the needles of Scotch pine. Needles will turn brown and drop off.

- **Lophodermium Needlecast –** black football shaped fruit bodies on the needle with a slit down the middle. Needles will turn brown and drop off. Scotch and white pines are susceptible.
- **Rhizosphaera Needlecast –** needles turn purple in color and have small black fruit bodies in the stomata. Colorado blue spruce very susceptible.
- **Spruce Needle Drop (SNEED) –** small black fruit bodies on the needles and twigs. Foliage is chlorotic and trees just look bad. It is not known if this is a primary or secondary pathogen. So far researchers have not been able to fulfill Koch's Postulate with this fungus.
- **Fir Needle Rust -** cream colored blisters on the needles of Balsam and Fraser firs. Needles turn brown and will drop off.
- **Lirula Needlecast –** needle discoloration on Balsam and Fraser firs. Depending on the species of *Lirula*, there can be a single or double row of fruit bodies on the underside of the needle.

Other:

Since Memorial Day is fast approaching, I thought I would supply you with an insect recipe you can try on your family and friends this coming Memorial Day weekend - Enjoy.

Recipe from: Entertaining with Insects Or: The Original Guide To Insect Cookery, by Ronald L. Taylor and Barbara J. Carter

Deviled Eggs
8 hard-boiled eggs
3 tablespoons onion juice
2 tablespoons sour cream
3 tablespoons sautéed garlic mealworms, chopped (see recipe below for Garlic Butter Fried Mealworms)

Remove yolks from eggs and mash with onion juice and sour cream. Fill egg halves with mixture and garnish with chopped mealworms.

Garlic Butter Fried Mealworms
¼ cup butter
6 cloves garlic, crushed
1 cup cleaned mealworms (Darkling or Yellow Mealworm Beetle larvae)

Melt butter in fry pan. Reduce heat. Sauté garlic in butter for 5 minutes. Add insects. Continue sautéing for 10-15 minutes, stirring occasionally.

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