

Northeast Wisconsin Forest Health Update

November 16, 2011

Topics covered this month:

Insects:

Asian longhorned beetle eradication efforts in Ohio
Brown marmorated stink bug now attacking forest trees
Emerald ash borer
Gypsy moth

Diseases:

Annosum in Marinette County
Phytophthora root rot in fir and spruce
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Other:

Annosum root rot winter fungicide application guidelines
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Wisconsin firewood certification and quarantine contacts

Insects

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

Asian Longhorned Beetle Eradication Effort Begins in Ohio – from Bill McNee. Ohio will try to eliminate its known Asian Longhorned Beetle infestation (~30 miles from Cincinnati) by cutting 50,000 trees, which began November 14, 2011. Although the insect was only detected a few months ago, 5,000 infested trees have already been found. Officials are hoping for eradication around 2020. Studies indicate that the pest has been present in Ohio since at least 2004. Read more at: <http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20111102/NEWS0108/111030345/State-ax-50-000-Clermont-trees?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE>.

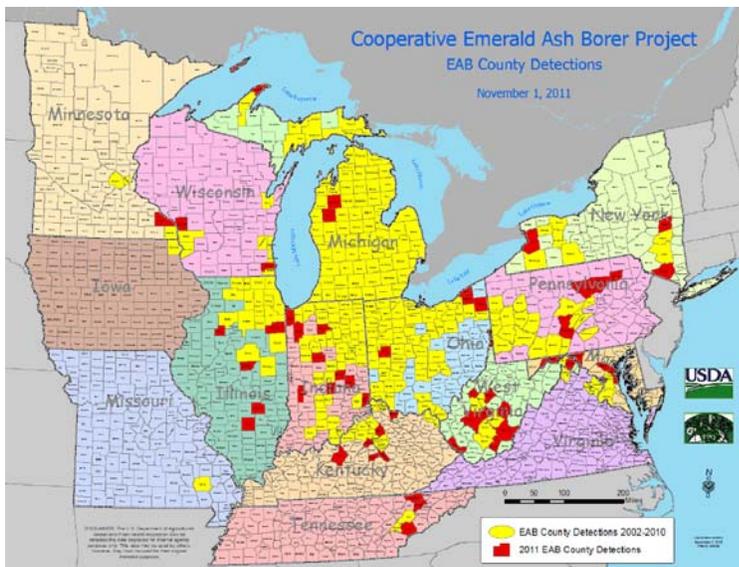
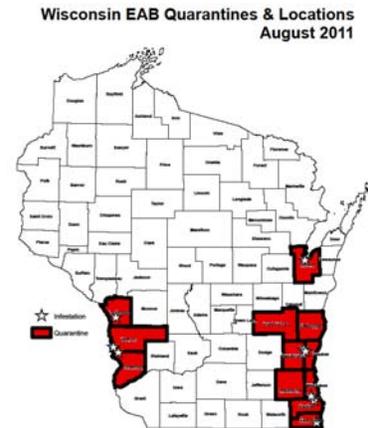
Not surprisingly, there has been a lot of public opposition to the proposed tree cutting from residents in the area. Around 400 local residents attended a recent public meeting. Bethel, the small town immediately adjacent to the eradication area, only has about 2,500 residents.

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) Now Attacking Forest Trees – from Bill McNee. In the past few years BMSB has frequently been mentioned as a rapidly spreading nuisance or pest of tree fruits and agricultural crops, primarily in the Mid-Atlantic States. At a recent conference, researchers presented evidence that this pest has been found attacking the seeds and tender shoots of forest tree species, including box elder, maple, white ash and hackberry. The effects of this feeding are currently unknown.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) – from Bill McNee. If your community will be doing branch sampling for EAB this fall or winter, please let Bill McNee know (bill.mcnee@wisconsin.gov). Researchers would like to contact some of the communities that will be using the survey method.

In 2012, EAB traps and lures will be available for communities to directly purchase from vendors. More details will be provided in a future pest update. The size and distribution of the Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) trapping program has yet to be determined.

In August it was reported that EAB had been detected in La Crosse County and across the river in Minnesota. Since then, Minnesota has found infested trees and adult beetles at



several sites. Infested trees have not been found in La Crosse County, although they are likely present.

The City of West Bend has found an additional 17 infested trees in the downtown area. 27 infested trees have been found so far this year vs. 10 last year.

A number of counties in other states have found EAB since an older version of the detection map was included in the pest update. Here is the most recent map of first county detections (2011 detections in red). A majority of the 2011 county detections have come from high-risk trapping

using purple traps.

In August it was reported that EAB had been detected in La Crosse County and across the river in Minnesota. Since then, Minnesota has found about 500 infested trees and has estimated the infestation to be about 6 years old. Infested trees have not been found in La Crosse County, although they are likely present.

Gypsy Moth – from Bill McNee. Now is the time for landowners and managers to look for gypsy moth egg masses to predict the pest's population size and potential damage to trees next year. We have had very few reports of high egg mass numbers so far this fall.

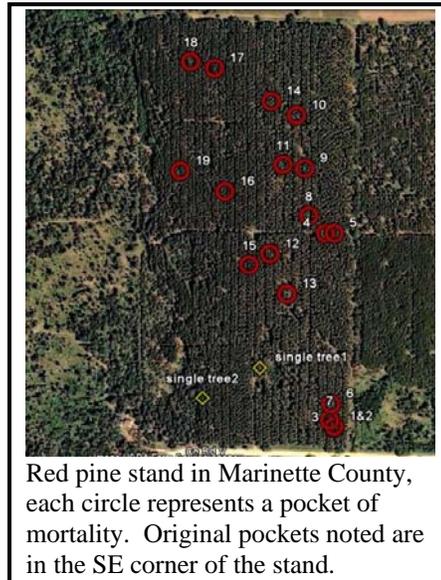
Communities and woodlot owners should contact their county coordinator immediately if they are considering participating in the 2012 Suppression Program. County coordinators must apply by Friday, December 2 of this year for aerial spraying in 2012. Information on the Suppression Program, egg mass survey instructions and a list of county coordinators are available at www.gypsymoth.wi.gov



Gypsy moth egg masses. Photo by Bill McNee.

solutions for eliminating the fungus from your stand once you have it and the fungus can remain active in the soil for decades, so preventing it from entering your stand in the first place is your best bet for long term forest productivity.

If you find annosum, or suspect you have found annosum in the Northeast Region please let me know. There are currently 23 counties in Wisconsin where annosum has been confirmed and the forest health program maintains a map of all known locations to help land managers be aware of the risk in their area. For more info on annosum go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/annosum/>



Red pine stand in Marinette County, each circle represents a pocket of mortality. Original pockets noted are in the SE corner of the stand.

Phytophthora root rot in fir and spruce – an article in the October, 2011, Wisconsin Christmas Tree Producers Assn Quarterly Journal, covered a new problem being seen in more and more Christmas tree plantations. A new Phytophthora root rot was found in October, 2010, to be killing fir, Douglas fir, and spruce. I have not heard of this being a problem in plantations outside of Christmas tree plantations but it doesn't hurt to be aware of potential problems. The article indicates that this root rot occurs in areas of compacted soil, or low lying areas and areas that are prone to flooding. DATCP is still trying to determine how widespread this new disease is in Wisconsin.

Thousand cankers disease update – Thousand Cankers Disease, a disease that kills walnut trees, is currently found in 9 western states and 3 eastern states (Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee). Regulations took effect August 1 to prohibit bringing potentially-infested items into Wisconsin from states known to have Thousand Cankers Disease. Regulated articles include all hardwood firewood, as well as nursery stock, unprocessed lumber and woodchips from *Juglans* species (butternut and black walnut).

Thousand Cankers Disease has not been found in Wisconsin at this time. Its name comes from lesions, or cankers, that develop when many tiny walnut twig beetles tunnel through the bark of the tree, spreading a fungus, *Geosmithia morbida* which causes cankers. The number of cankers per tree can number in the thousands. The tree's foliage yellows and thins, and eventually the walnut tree dies. There are no known pesticides that will control this disease. It was first observed in New Mexico in the 1990s, and in 2010 was discovered in eastern Tennessee within the natural range of black walnut. For more information about Thousand Canker Disease, visit: <http://www.thousandcankerdisease.com/> If you suspect you have thousand cankers disease please contact your forest health specialist.

Other/Misc.

Annosum root rot winter fungicide application guidelines – the following information was sent out by Paul DeLong, Wisconsin DNR Division of Forestry Administrator, on 11/15/2011 regarding treatment of stumps during the winter to prevent the spread of annosum root rot:

Interim winter fungicide application guidelines for annosum root rot

Background

Last year, issues were brought forth pertaining to the mechanized application of Cellu-Treat in cold weather. Cellu-Treat solution freezes and mechanized applications were impossible below freezing temperatures. Temporary guidelines were implemented to remedy the situation. Since then a new Cellu-Treat label has become available that will allow propylene glycol to be added to the chemical to lower the freezing temperature of the solution.

Given this new tool, the Division explored several alternatives in an effort to better balance operational considerations with the risk of spreading annosum. The Division sought input from GLTPA, a few County Forest Administrators and internal staff, to better understand the operational limitations coupled with the need for more data and understanding of how the additive works in the field. Given the feedback, it has been determined not to make any adjustments at this time to the interim policy used last winter.

These guidelines apply only to:

- State DNR timber sales currently under contract or those proposed for sale that have provisions for annosum treatment.
- Timber sales sold with the option of using Cellu-treat **OR** sporax application (Timber sales bid out specifically requiring a hand application of Sporax will still require treatment prescribed in the contract)

Application Guideline

Treatment is **NOT** required this winter if the following conditions can be met:

High temperature on the day of harvest is < 32 degrees Fahrenheit OR snow depth is > 12" in the woods

AND

The forecasted high temperatures for the next 10 days are not predicted to exceed 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

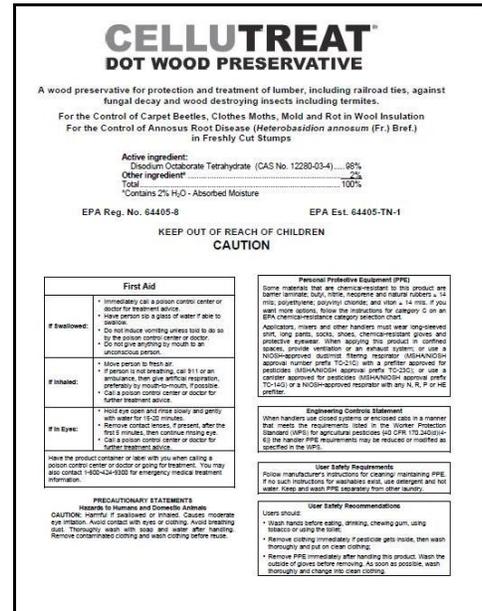
Note: Although mechanized applications with propylene glycol have been performed only at a limited scale and further field monitoring is needed to assure the feasibility of the application, we encourage operators use this option and believe it will allow harvesting to occur on more days that otherwise would have had possible without this change. DNR Forest Health staff will continue to work with loggers in late fall/early winter to test the feasibility of mechanized application with the Cellu-treat/propylene glycol mixture under various temperatures.

Thank you.

Paul

Cellu-Treat label now with antifreeze, for annosum treatment – A new label is available for Cellu-Treat which now states "To prevent the solution from freezing during cold weather, substitute some or all of the water with the appropriate amount of dilute (not concentrate), propylene glycol based antifreeze that is non-toxic to animals". With this label, it is now legal to add propylene glycol to Cellu-Treat solution for use during winter months. You may still have a Cellu-Treat container with an old label. If so, you will need to have a copy of this new label in your possession to legally add propylene glycol to Cellu-Treat solution out of an old container. I was unable to locate the label online at this time so if you need a copy please email me Linda.Williams@wi.gov and I will email you the latest label.

Based on the limited study conducted by the manufacturer and the DNR, 12-15% propylene glycol solution with 5% Cellu-Treat will stay liquid at 20F. Ready-to-use RV antifreeze is usually already diluted to 25-30% of propylene glycol. In this case, mixing it with the same amount of water should bring the solution down to an appropriate dilution. Although it worked in the lab and in the field with a backpack sprayer, this has not been tested on a spray attachment on a processor yet so let me know how it goes if you try it or hear from loggers who are trying it.



Don't Move Firewood – from Bill McNee. As hunting seasons begin, hunters are encouraged to not move firewood long distances due to the risk of transporting pests such as emerald ash borer, gypsy moth and oak wilt. In addition, quarantine regulations for emerald ash borer and gypsy moth restrict the movement of firewood out of certain counties. In the DNR northeast region, Brown and Fond du Lac Counties are under EAB quarantine. For more information, visit www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov and www.gypsymoth.wi.gov.

The attachment to this pest update email shows the permitted and prohibited movement of hardwood firewood. Feel free to make copies and distribute it to the public.

Wisconsin firewood certification and quarantine contacts – DATCP is currently experiencing some staffing shortages. During this time, if you have questions about compliance agreements or quarantines contact Anna Healy in the south: 608-224-4546, or Randy Sthokal in the north: 715-359-3710. Firewood dealers and those looking for info on firewood certification can contact Philip Harrell: 608-224-4588.

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/>

Northeast Region Pest Update produced by:

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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.