

Northern Region Forest Insect & Disease Report

*Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry*



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Forest Health News Across NOR

Aspen Leafblotch Miner Prevalent...Again

Just like last year, the lower crown of aspens all over much of northern Wisconsin look brown. The culprit is the caterpillar of the Aspen Leafblotch Miner (Moth/Butterfly Order, *Phyllonorycter tremuloidiella*). I've recently noted this damage in Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida, Vilas and Forest counties. Weber reports moderate defoliation in Sawyer and Price counties on popples up to 20 feet. It wouldn't surprise me if it's more widespread than what we report here. I am unaware of the impact to seedlings when this critter mines leaves year after year, but it is likely not a significant problem for aspens pole-sized or larger. The population should recede from natural factors one of these years.



Figure 1. Aspen leafblotch miner damage.

Alder Flea Beetle Prevalent...Again

Just like last year, alder leaves look lacy across much of northern Wisconsin because of the Alder Flea Beetle (*Altica ambiens*). In spotty locations, the damage is severe. I am unaware of the impact to alders, but I suspect it is minimal.



Figure 2. Alder Flea Beetle next to lunch.

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Fall Webworm Webbing It Up

Perhaps you've noticed terminal branches webbed together on various species during your work in northern Wisconsin. It's been noted occasionally in Sawyer, Price, and Lincoln counties. It's probably elsewhere too. This is due to the Fall Webworm (Moth/Butterfly Order, *Hyphantria cunea*). Typically one sees it on alders, elms, and birches, although it can feed on over 100 species of broadleaf plants. See <http://www.entomology.umn.edu/cues/Web/133FallWebworm.pdf> for additional information and pictures. Like the previous two critters, this is not a great concern for trees.

Forest Health News Across Eastern NOR



Figure 3. An elm dying from Dutch Elm Disease in Lincoln Co.

Dutch Elm Disease Widespread

It *seems* like Dutch Elm Disease (DED) is *the* most obvious tree killing agent, besides wind, in a decent chunk of Wisconsin—Langlade and Lincoln counties come to mind. The percentage of elms affected is quite remarkable. Those of you tending toward mycophagy may be very happy in May 2012 about the abundant 2011 elm mortality.

Oak Wilt Detection Flight Results

I attempted to detect new oak wilt pockets in later July. The only oak wilt found was south of Spread Eagle, which was already known to be heavily infested. Oak wilt lookalikes spotted in the air turned out to be dying yellow birches and beeches, livestock-damaged sugar maples, and lots of diseased elms. The primary deduction from the flight is that *oak wilt is not well established in central Langlade and northeastern Oneida counties*. Also, there are some pretty Scottish Highlander cattle in southeastern Langlade Co. that use sugar maples as itching posts. Next time I spot a cluster of dying hardwoods from the air, I'll consider Scottish Highlanders as the cause.

Balsam Fir Problems

I continue to get calls from property owners about firs that die very quickly. This is usually due to *Armillaria*, but it is not uncommon to see balsam fir bark beetles and/or roundheaded wood borers also killing stressed balsams. There is nothing landowners can do to avoid this mortality in the forest.

The second issue with balsams is scattered branch tip death, seen over a large part of northeastern Wisconsin. There are actually 2 or 3 separate issues here:

- (1) New shoot death and curl — likely *Delphinella* Shoot Blight—no concern for the balsam's life. Conditions were probably ripe for this disease during the wet conditions of later 2010 or Spring 2011.
- (2) Death of the outer portion of the branch (the inner portion is still alive) — cause officially unknown. DATCP has isolated a fungus, but we must replicate this finding before we know it is the cause. Some of this death is caused by wounding on the underside of the branch, which could be from insects.
- (3) Whole branch death—cause unknown



Figure 4. This symptom is most likely from Delphinella Shoot Blight, a fungal disease of balsam fir.



Figure 5. Left: Partial branch death, commonly seen in northeast Wisconsin in 2011. Right: Advancing dead tissue from the tip of a shoot towards the base, representative of a likely fungal disease.

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Forest Tent Caterpillar in Iron Co.

This is old news now, but FYI, Forest Tent Caterpillar (FTC) is back. FTC partially chewed many-an-aspen leaf in central Iron County this June 2011, making its presence known on 500 - 1500 acres (large spread because I did not aerielly survey the damage). I expect more chewing in 2012.

Spruce Budworm Damage in Forest & Florence Counties

Spruce Budworm is back at it for *at least* the 2nd year in a row in northern Forest County and several parts of Florence County. It is not possible to report how many acres are impacted given the fact I did not aerielly survey the cover type systematically. Suffice it to report balsams in northern Forest County (Alvin Township) are suffering light to heavy defoliation by the budworm as are those near Argonne. The budworm has toasted and lightly buttered several swamp conifer stands in eastern Florence County.

What's the Deal With Spotty Sugar Maple Branch Death?

I don't know.

Spotting sugar maple branch death started in northeastern Wisconsin around the end of June. The prevalence and severity is low, but the phenomenon is widespread. A fungus is associated with these symptoms, and it could be the cause. Lab work continues on this phenomenon to suggest the cause.



Figure 6. Branch flagging on sugar maples was not uncommon in 2011. We still do not know the cause.

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What Was the Deal With the Dead Red Pine Needle Tips in Spring 2011?

I don't know.

I wrote about this issue in the [June 2011 Newsletter](#). At that time, I said it was probably one of three typical fungal needle diseases. Well, none of the causes of those fungal diseases have presented themselves to date. That doesn't mean one of them is not the cause. A non-living cause, like an unusual warm weather day in February, could also be an explanation, although I have my doubts given the symptom distribution on individual pines. Unless you hear from me on this topic in the future, this phenomenon remains an eternal mystery. Luckily, the new growth masks the old needles with dead tips well, even though they're still there.



Figure 7. Needle tip death on older red pine needles, widespread in 2011. We still do not know the cause.

Forest Health News in Western NOR

Jack Pine Budworm Scenario—by Shane Weber

Despite increasing numbers of Jack Pine Budworms in northwestern

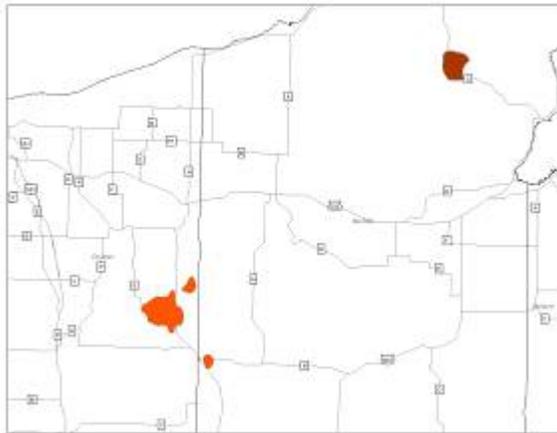


Figure 8. 2011 Jack Pine Budworm defoliation in Douglas and Bayfield counties. Darker red polygons indicate moderate to heavy defoliation. Orange polygons indicate light to moderate defoliation.

Wisconsin, there was very little damage from them which was dominated by very small, light feeding individuals. The only area with lots of big plump budworms was north of the Valhalla ski area in the Chequamegon Nat. Forest. The parasitism rate was pretty average but the mix of parasites indicates an old population in Swiss and Barnes. The data present a murky picture making predictions problematic, at best. The Bayfield Peninsula is one area to watch in 2012.

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Redheaded Pine Sawfly Damage to Young Jack Pine

The Redheaded Pine Sawfly has damaged scattered small jack pines (< 10 feet tall) across 40,000 acres in east-central Burnett and west-central Washburn counties. The damage is moderate to heavy. This is a typical pest of the area's jack pines.



Figure 8. Damage from the redheaded pine sawfly (MN DNR, Bugwood.org).

Oak Lace Bug Feeding in Washburn & Douglas Counties

Weber reports there are scattered pockets of bur oaks in Washburn (Minong Township) and Douglas (Wascott and Gordon Townships) counties experiencing heavy to severe leaf bronzing by the Oak Lace Bug (True Bug Order, *Corythucha arcuata*). The damage made by this critter is not reported to be problematic (see photos of the damage in the [August 2010 Newsletter](#)).



Figure 9. An adult Oak Lace Bug (Joseph Berger, Bugwood.org).

Odds & Ends

Herbicide Damage on Conifers Across the Country

You probably have heard about Imprelis, but in case you haven't, I highly recommend reading about it at <http://hort.uwex.edu/articles/potential-imprelis%C2%AE-herbicide-damage-conifers> . It's a lawn herbicide that has damaged spruces and pines over a very wide area.

Pesticide Applicator and Annosum Workshop Information

- Forestry Pesticide Applicator training will be held in Weston on March 30, 2012. Click [details](#) if you want [details](#).
- Click on the Word file below to get information about an Annosum Workshop on 9/22/2011 in Melrose, WI



Annosum Root Rot
Workshop Sept...

Forest Health in Other Parts of Wisconsin

- Japanese Beetle Damage—N.E., Central, and S. WI
- Ugly Nest Caterpillar Damage—Oconto Co.
- New Annosum Finds—Waupaca Co. (21N, 11E, Section 7), Marinette Co. (35N, 20E, Section 29)
- Abundant Rhizosphaera Needlecast on Spruce—N.E., Central, & S. WI
- Severe Larch Casebear defoliation—central Marinette Co.
- Building Jack Pine Budworm pops.—Dunn, Pierce, & Jackson counties
- Post Oak Locust Feeding—central WI
- Dutch Elm Disease—central WI

Forest Health Websites and Phone Numbers

- EAB Reporting:
 - (1) 1-800-462-2803
 - (2) email DATCPEmeraldAshBorer@wisconsin.gov
 - (3) online at <http://emeraldashborer.wi.gov> (click on **Report EAB** on the top menu)
- EAB Information: <http://emeraldashborer.wi.gov>
- Gypsy Moth Reporting:
 - (1) 1-800-642-MOTH
 - (2) email DNRFRGypsymoth@wisconsin.gov
- Gypsy Moth Information: <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov/>
- Forest Health Issues: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Fh/>
- Sick Tree Diagnostic Keys:
 - <http://www.extension.umn.edu/gardeninfo/diagnostics/index.html> (**FINISHED!**)
 - <http://greenindustry.uwex.edu/diagnostics/index.cfm>
 - <http://imfc.cfl.scf.rncan.gc.ca/accueil-home-eng.html> (this is very useful!)
- Forest Insect and Disease Handouts for Landowners:
 - <http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/invasives/pdf/Appendix-G.pdf>
- Oak Wilt: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Fh/oakWilt/>
- Annosum Root Rot: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Fh/annosum/>

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Thanks to Dan Cardinal for the oak wilt detection flight. Thanks to Kyoko Scanlon, Anette Phibbs, and Glen Stanosz for lab diagnostic help on the balsam fir and maple flagging issues and the red pine needle tip necrosis.

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Florence, Forest, Iron, Langlade,
Lincoln, Oneida, Price, Taylor, &
Vilas counties

Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett,
Douglas, Polk, Rusk, Sawyer, &
Washburn counties



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Note: This pest report is an informal newsletter and covers forest health issues in the northern 18 counties of Wisconsin. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide forest owners and managers in the Northern Region with regional up-to-date forest health information. We welcome your comments/suggestions on this newsletter *and your reports on forest health problems you observe in your area*. If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter, please contact Brian Schwingle at brian.schwingle@wisconsin.gov. Previous issues of this newsletter and regional forest health updates from other Wisconsin regions are available at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/FH/OntheNews/>.

Annosum Root Rot Workshop

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Melrose-Mindoro High School Auditorium
N181 State Road 108, Melrose, WI 54642

A G E N D A

Driving instructions:

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?t=h&hl=en&ie=UTF8&msa=0&msid=214770432563475341953.0004a146c2f4942dca335&z=13>>

Indoor session:

Please use side entrance to auditorium.

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. – 9:05 a.m. Welcome

Arvid Haugen, DNR West Central Region Forestry Leader

9:05 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Biology and History of Annosum Root Rot

Mike Hillstrom/Todd Lanigan - Forest Health Specialists, WI DNR

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Red Pine Pocket Mortality and Annosum Root Rot Research

Bob Murphy – Forest Health Specialist, WI DNR

10:00 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. Break

10:10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Video showing - “Stump treatment to prevent root rot”

Produced by Skogforsk

Forestry Research Institute of Sweden

10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Management and prevention of Annosum Root Rot - logistics of fungicide applications (pesticide certification/license, winter applications, etc.), DNR Policy Update

Kyoko Scanlon, Forest Pathologist, WI DNR

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Drive to Hoeth Forest – LaCrosse County Forest

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Lunch - **DNR folks, bring your own lunch**, beverages provided

Field session:

12:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Demonstration of manual applications of Sporex and Cellu-Treat

Demonstration of Cellu-Treat spray attachment on a processor – Lambert Forest Products

Annosum Harvest Discussion

Sponsored by FISTA and WI DNR