

Northern Region Forest Insect & Disease Report

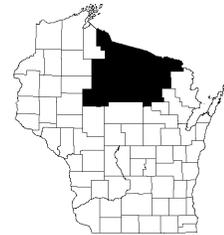
*Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry*

The trees haven't looked better in the spring since I started with the DNR in 2007 (i.e. in the eastern Northern Region). The late rains of 2010 knocked down populations of leaf chewing insects and the long, cool 2011 spring slowed insect development. I expected to see more hardwood leaf diseases with this spring's weather, but they've failed to develop. Good news! *-Brian Schwingle*

CONTENTS

Spring Forest Health News in Eastern NOR

- [Widespread Needle Disease on Red Pines](#)
- [Widespread Frost Damage on Red Oaks](#)
- [Ips pini Development After April Blowdowns in Council Grounds State Park](#)
- [Review of Needle Diseases on Spruce](#)
- [Expecting Unnoticeable Jack Pine Budworm Populations](#)



Spring Forest Health News in Western NOR

- [Lots of Eastern Tent Caterpillars](#)
- [Jack Pine Budworm Populations Increasing](#)



Odds & Ends

- [Two Titans of Wisconsin Forest Pathology and Entomology Bowing Out](#)
- [Forest Health in Other Parts of the Wisconsin](#)
- [Forest Health Websites & Phone Numbers](#)

[Forest Insect & Disease Contacts](#)

Spring Forest Health News in Eastern NOR

Widespread Needle Disease on Red Pines

Many red pines throughout north-central Wisconsin have a non-severe fungal needle disease. Diseased needles have brown tips. Disease is more prevalent on older needles in the lower canopy. I have not confirmed the causal agent, but the specific disease is probably one or a combination of the following: Dothistroma Needle Blight (a.k.a. Red Band Needle Blight), Brown Spot Needle Blight, or Lophodermium Needlecast. The following links contain pertinent information:

<http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Assets/pdfs/A2620.pdf>

<http://learningstore.uwex.edu/assets/pdfs/A2608.pdf>



Figure 1. Left: Red pines with needle disease, indicated by needles with dead tips congregated in the lower canopy. Above: Close-up of infected needles.

Widespread Frost Damage on Red Oaks

What do newly planted winter squash plants in my garden and red oaks throughout north-central Wisconsin have in common? Two things: (1) They were damaged by a May 27 frost, and (2) they survived. Yes! Specifically, I noted oaks

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

in the red oak group damaged in jack pine country throughout Oneida Co. and Vilas Co. Reports also confirmed frost damage in eastern Langlade Co.



Figure 2. Left: Typical late spring frost damage on oaks. Lower leaves froze while upper leaves escaped damage. This pattern is typical but does not always hold. Right: Emerging red leaves after frost killed the first set, now crispy yellow.

***Ips pini* Development After the April Blowdown in Council Grounds State Park**

Perhaps one positive aspect of the April tornados that struck several parts of Wisconsin was that they occurred in early April during a spring that dragged its feet. *Ips pini*, the Pine Engraver bark beetle, started attacking some (not all) snapped red and Scots pines at Council Grounds State Park around May 24. When the second round of bark beetles emerge in early July, hopefully unattacked snapped pines will be too dry to provide a nice home for them; thus forgoing a local bark beetle outbreak. As to the susceptibility of the tipped pines that still seem to have functional roots, I cannot say.



*Figure 3. A developing brood of *Ips pini* bark beetles on a snapped red pine tree at Council Grounds State Park.*

Review of Needle Diseases on Spruce

Since I wrote an article on needle diseases on red pine, shan't we review a couple needle diseases on spruce?



Figure 4. Left: Black fruiting bodies of Rhizosphaera popping out of needle stomata. Above: Black linear fruiting bodies of Lirula.

Okay, you got me. I really just wrote this article because I wanted to write “shan’t” and I also wanted to show off my picture of Lirula Needlecast. I had never seen it in the field before. I have not received a bunch of reports this spring about needle disease on spruces. For additional information on these needle diseases, go to <http://hort.uwex.edu/articles/rhizosphaera-needle-cast> and <http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/M1265.html#lirulaneedleblight>

Expecting Unnoticeable Jack Pine Budworm Populations

I do not expect any noticeable jack pine budworm defoliation in immature jack pine stands in western Oneida County or the southern half of Vilas County. I have yet to survey the northern half of Vilas Co. I suspect survey results will be the same up there though.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Spring Forest Health News in Western NOR

Lots of Eastern Tent Caterpillars

Shane Weber reports the Eastern Tent Caterpillar population in the western half of Northern Region is quite high, again. If our citizenry requests control recommendations, suggest they simply rip the caterpillar nests out of the trees, drop, and squash under foot. I opine it's kind of pointless to spray them.

Jack Pine Budworm Populations Increasing

Surveys of the early stage jack pine budworm in northwestern Wisconsin indicate the population is on the rise. In Douglas County, from Gordon northward, the population has roughly tripled from its 2010 level. Expect to see browning in crowns in this area. Some areas in Bayfield County will probably see defoliation as well, particularly in the northern tier of Barnes' sections. Washburn County jack pine stands contain a lower level of budworms.



Figure 5: An early-stage jack pine budworm caterpillar feeding on male cones, typical in late-May (early June this year) (DM Benjamin, UW, Bugwood.org).

Odds & Ends

Two Titans of Wisconsin Forest Pathology and Entomology Bowing Out

You probably have heard Wisconsin is losing its extremely knowledgeable forest entomologist, Shane Weber, to retirement. Unfortunately, it is also losing its extremely talented coordinator of the Forest Health group (and former statewide forest pathologist), Jane Cummings Carlson, to retirement. These two will be greatly missed. There's little doubt more trees will become diseased and eaten without these two working for the public good. The Bugs and the Crud have been

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

waiting for this moment. Beware all ye jack pines aspens, oaks, pines, and boxelders.

Forest Health in Other Parts of the Wisconsin

- Second Annosum Root Rot pocket detection—Shawano Co. (4271627) (7 and 11 miles from the two closest known Annosum detections)
- Forest Tent Caterpillar Defoliation—Rock, Sauk, Crawford, Iowa, & Dane counties
- Eastern Tent Caterpillar Defoliation—Southern Region
- Elm Spanworm Defoliation—Sauk Co.
- Wasp biocontrol release for EAB—Newburg area
- Many reports of Rhizosphaera Needlecast—Northeast Region

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/>
- Firewood movement in Wisconsin:
 - https://onlineservices.datcp.wi.gov/eab/articleassets/EAB_GM_Firewood_Restrictions.pdf

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Jane Cummings Carlson and Shane Weber for a combined 60 years (roughly) towards protecting Wisconsin's forests.

FOREST INSECT & DISEASE CONTACTS

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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/intheNews/>.