

# West Central WI Forest Health Report

August 2011

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## Insects

### Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald ash borer has recently been discovered in two new locations in Wisconsin. First, EAB adults were discovered on several purple traps in the Town of Caledonia (Racine County). This infestation appears to be about 1 mile south of the known infestation in Oak Creek. Second, 6 beetles were discovered on a purple trap about 1 mile from La Crosse in the Town of Medary (Figure 1). A few days later, Minnesota announced it found two new infestations near La Crosse (Veteran's Park in La Crescent and Great River Bluffs State Park). These find are about 20 miles North of the known infestation in Victory.

Delimitation surveys will be necessary to determine if this is multiple small infestations or one large infestation. La Crosse County will be added to the list of EAB quarantined counties in Wisconsin.

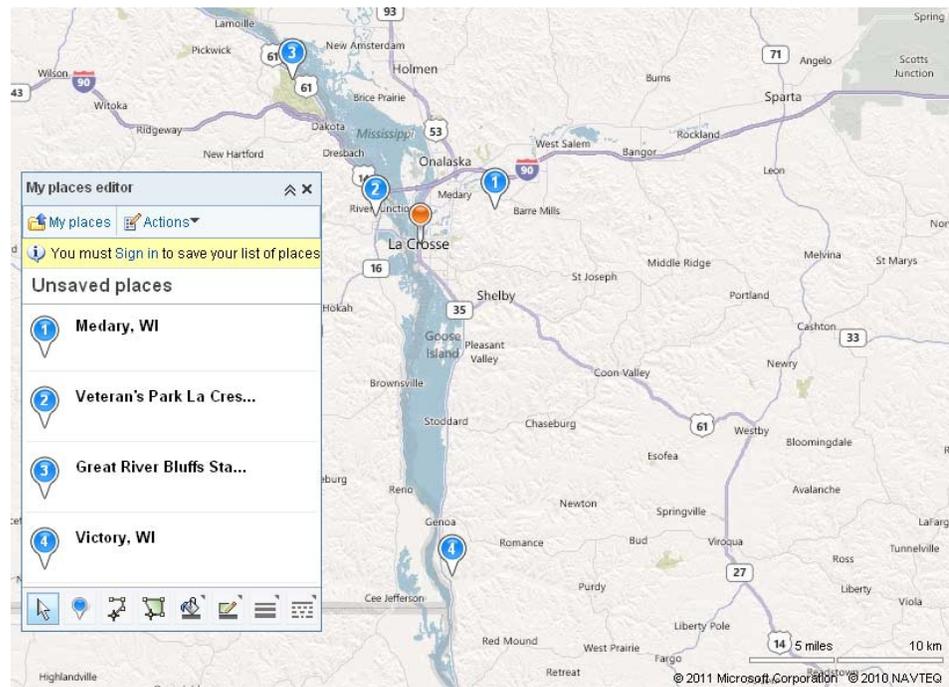


Figure 1. Location of EAB infestations in Western WI and Eastern MN.

Wisconsin and Minnesota are not the only states to find new EAB infestations. New EAB finds have led to new counties being quarantined in New York, D.C., Maryland and Tennessee.

## Gypsy Moth

The adult gypsy moth flight is nearing its end (already over in southern WI). If you know of areas that were defoliated this year or in the past couple of years now is the time to start checking for egg masses. Please let us know if you find any areas of concern so we can start planning for spray season next spring.

## Cherry Scallop Shell Moth

A recent inspection of black cherry trees near Wisconsin Rapids revealed some moderate feeding damage by Cherry Scallop Shell Moth. Caterpillars create a tube-like nest starting in July by tying leaves together. Caterpillars then feed on the leaf surface from within the nest causing eaten leaves to turn red-brown as they die (Photo 1). Cherry scallop shell moth can affect entire trees and cause dieback if damage occurs concurrently with another stress such as drought. I doubt populations were large enough this year to cause any permanent damage to the affected trees but if populations continue to be high next year we can expect help suppressing the caterpillar population from a tiny egg parasitizing wasp (genus *Telenomus*).



Photo 1. Leaves tied together and eaten by the Cherry Scallop Shell Moth.

More details at [http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest\\_al/cssm/cherry\\_scallop\\_shell\\_moth.htm](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest_al/cssm/cherry_scallop_shell_moth.htm)

## Diseases

### Bur Oak Blight



Forest health staff are looking to collect samples of oak trees infected with *Tubakia* spp. fungus. Symptomatic leaves will show dead tissue along the veins or browning areas along the tip or sides of leaves (Photo 2). This is part of a research project being conducted by Dr. Tom Harrington at Iowa State University to identify the causal agent and distribution of bur oak blight. If you notice any symptomatic oaks please let Todd or I know.

Photo 2. Leaves showing symptoms of bur oak blight. Photo by Tom Harrington.

## Balsam Fir Problems (by Brian Schwingle)

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 (Photo 3) – 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) (Photos 4 & 5) – 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.



Photo 3. New shoot death and curl probably caused by *Delphinella* Shoot Blight.

Photos 4 & 5. A typical balsam fir with partial branch death and the advancing dead tissue from the tip of the shoot towards the base.

**Note: In the WCR I’ve seen symptomatic branches (i.e., from *Delphinella* or other fungal infection) on balsam in several areas of Clark and Marathon Counties**

## Training Opportunities

### Annosum Workshop

Sign up now for the Annosum Root Rot Workshop September 22, 2011 at the Melrose-Mindoro High School Auditorium in Melrose, WI. The deadline for registration is September 8, 2011. This class will provide important knowledge and training for loggers and foresters working in pine. We will spend the morning learning about annosum and its management and then head to the field for a demonstration of manual and mechanical (processor) preventative fungicide application as well as to discuss how to harvest stands with annosum. Find the full schedule in the May 2011 WCR pest report ([http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Fh/intheNews/2011/WCR\\_05-09-2011.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Fh/intheNews/2011/WCR_05-09-2011.pdf)). We already have a diverse group of about 30 loggers and foresters registered for the workshop (max 80). Loggers and foresters who want SFI credits should register through FISTA. DNR foresters can register through the Forestry Training Office. Contact Todd Lanigan ([todd.lanigan@wi.gov](mailto:todd.lanigan@wi.gov)) for more information.

## Pesticide Applicator Training

Check out the 2012 schedule for Pesticide Applicator Training at <http://ipcm.wisc.edu/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Hj%2beSkpJmcE%3d&tabid=69> . Information about registration, how to get the training manual, etc. can be found at <http://ipcm.wisc.edu/pat>. Unsure if you need to be certified? Anyone applying pesticides “for hire” (including applying fungicides for annosum prevention) must take this training and become certified.

## In the News

### Imprelis herbicide info (by Linda Williams)

DuPont voluntarily suspended sale of Imprelis on Aug. 4 and said it would begin a product recall and refund program by mid-August. Imprelis was sold only to commercial applicators and was not available over the counter. But it appears to have been widely used by some lawn care companies. The problem relates to how lawn application later affects conifers, causing severe symptoms and mortality of all sizes of trees (Photo 6).

Michigan State University has finalized details for testing for Imprelis residues. You can visit the MSU Diagnostic Lab website (<http://www.pestid.msu.edu/>) and use their submission form for sample submission. Simply indicate that you would like your sample to be tested for



Photo 6. Imprelis herbicide damage near Green Lake, WI. Photo by Mike Hillstrom

Imprelis. The lab will need about 50 g of needle tissue which translates into stuffing a one gallon zip lock bag with 4-6 inch long symptomatic branch tips from an affected tree. Pack the branch tips dry, NOT wrapped in moistened paper towels. Try to ship the branches via overnight mail, and definitely send the sample early in the week. Fresh samples are great, but samples can be frozen as well, if you need to collect a sample, but cannot mail it in right away. The cost for testing of out-of-state samples is \$200. The MSU lab will bill and takes checks and credit cards.

A “what can homeowners do” factsheet is available from MSU at [http://news.msue.msu.edu/uploads/files/122/Imprelis%20homeowner%20factsheet\\_Bert%20Cregg.pdf](http://news.msue.msu.edu/uploads/files/122/Imprelis%20homeowner%20factsheet_Bert%20Cregg.pdf) and more information can be found on UW Extension’s website at <http://hort.uwex.edu/articles/potential-imprelis%C2%AE-herbicide-damage-conifers>

## Photo of the Month

Want to be famous?! Submit your best work related photos for inclusion in this pest report. I'm looking for photos of cool bugs, storm damage, the worst buckthorn you've ever seen, fire, foresters at work (using chainsaws, treating invasive plants), etc. Email me the photo (or upload it to the network drive if the file is more than 5MB) and a description. I'll pick a few photos each month to include.



I found this beastie flying through the prairie at the Wisconsin Rapids Service Center. It's a peleciniid wasp (Family Pelecinidae; *Pelecinus polyturator*). It's the only species in this family found north of Mexico. This is a female which uses that long abdomen to reach into the soil and deposit an egg on a May/June beetle grub. The larvae hatches and burrows into its host and eats it from the inside out as any good parasitoid wasp larva does. Pelecinids do not sting!

**For general forest health and municipal level urban forest health issues contact:**



<http://new.dnr.wi.gov/Default.aspx?Page=4e114a1b-6bc4-4fd7-9e0b-755e7d11dd22>

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**Statewide reporting systems:**

**Report EAB:**

by phone 1-800-462-2803  
by email [DATCPEmeraldAshBorer@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DATCPEmeraldAshBorer@wisconsin.gov)  
visit the website <http://emeraldashborer.wi.gov/>

**Report Gypsy Moth:**

by phone at 1-800-642-6684  
by email [dnrfgypsymoth@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dnrfgypsymoth@wisconsin.gov)  
visit the website <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov/>

For additional information visit the Forest Health web site: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh>

Note: This report covers forest health issues occurring in the West Central Region of Wisconsin. The purpose is to provide up-to-date information on forest health issues to foresters, forest landowners, and anyone else interested. We welcome your comments/suggestions on this newsletter as well as reports on forest health problems in your area. If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter, please contact Mike Hillstrom at [Michael.hillstrom@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Michael.hillstrom@wisconsin.gov). Previous issues of this update and regional forest health updates from NER, NOR and SOR, are available from the WI DNR Forestry website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/FH/intheNews/>. Articles written by Mike Hillstrom unless otherwise noted.

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.