

Southern Region Forest Health Update

Wisconsin DNR, Forest Health Protection Unit

May 4, 2012 Vol. 9 No. 2

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Articles in this newsletter were written by Mark Guthmiller unless otherwise noted
(Southern Region Forest Health Specialist)

Ticks!

If you have been out in the woods this spring you may have also noticed more ticks. Just from the buzz in the office and some personal field experience it does seem like this has been a very good spring for ticks. Attached is a press release from DHS. Wear light colored clothes, tuck those pant legs in, consider using bug spray, and make sure to do frequent tick checks!

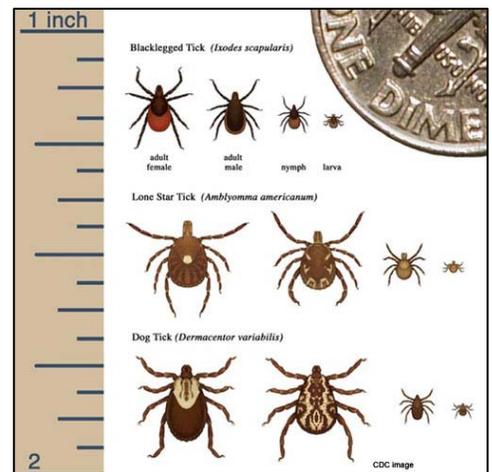
Press Release from DHS:

<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/News/PressReleases/2012/050112.htm>

For more information:

<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/TickBorne/index.htm>

For information on insect repellents: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/oppref/insect/>

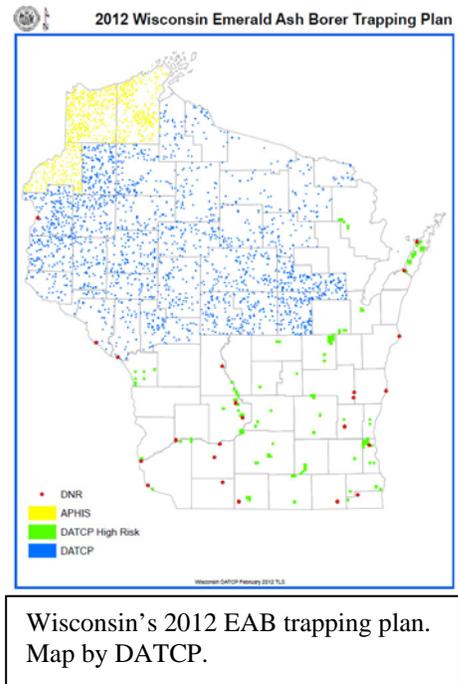


Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) – Bill McNee

Emerald ash borer adults are expected to begin emerging by mid-May due to the warm spring weather. State- and Federally-organized detection trap hanging began in late April. The northern half of Wisconsin will have ~2,500 purple panel traps, with trap locations determined by a new detection model. In the southern half of Wisconsin, there will be purple panel traps at selected high-risk sites and double-decker traps at selected state parks and forests. As of May 3, double-decker EAB traps have been installed at DNR properties in southeast counties (red dots on map below). Installation of traps on DNR properties in the south central region is planned over the next two weeks.

Want To Be The First On The Block To Hear About New EAB Detections? Sign up here!

A great new resource is now available for those that want or need to know early about news and new detections of emerald ash borer in Wisconsin. To sign up for Email News Alerts go to WI DATCP site and subscribe: http://datcp.wi.gov/Gov_Delivery/EAB/index.aspx



Wisconsin's 2012 EAB trapping plan. Map by DATCP.

EAB Insecticide Treatments

If you are planning EAB insecticide treatments this spring, it may be appropriate to move your treatment window up by about 2 weeks due to the accelerated tree phenology. Application periods will vary by product and application method. For more information on insecticide treatments, visit: www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov.

Gypsy Moth– Bill McNee

Wisconsin's first gypsy moth hatch was seen on April 2 in Green County, south of Madison. This is the earliest hatch in memory and is due to the very warm March weather. In 2012 the first slow-the-spread spraying in southwest Wisconsin (on April 26) began nearly two weeks earlier than the first hatch in 2011 (on May 9).



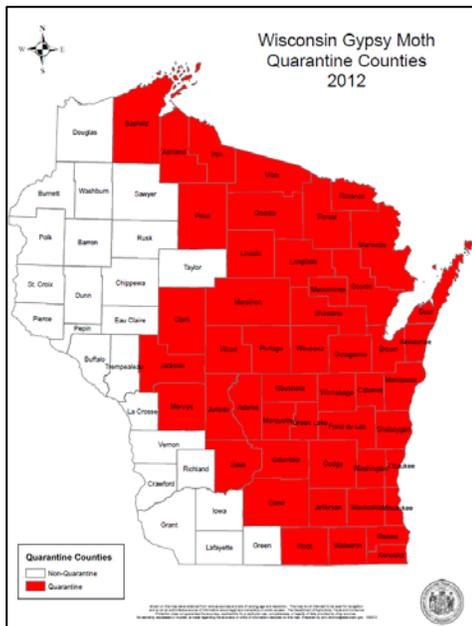
Gypsy moth caterpillars hatching from an egg mass.

As of May 3, Biosim phenology software is predicting the presence of 3rd instar gypsy moth caterpillars in southwest Wisconsin. 27% of the larvae in Prairie du Chien and 5% of the larvae in Madison are predicted to be 3rd instars. In contrast, hatch is just starting up north in Superior. This year there is only one DNR suppression spray area, at Gov. Thompson State Park in Marinette County.

Mild winter temperatures and early hatching forecast an increasing population this summer as long as we don't have a cool and wet May and June. Some areas can expect to see the return of nuisance caterpillars and interest in aerial spraying in 2013. In southern Wisconsin numbers appear to be remaining low so far but it is important to monitor for building nuisance levels of caterpillars.

Preparing sticky bands and burlap collection bands on ornamental host trees (oak, birch, crabapple, etc.) in southern counties would be appropriate at this time. Insecticide treatment of individual trees is another control option. More information can be found at: www.gypsymoth.wi.gov.

Ashland, Bayfield and Clark Counties have been added to the state gypsy moth quarantine area. More information is available at: <http://datcp.wi.gov/news/?Id=519>.



Counties quarantined for gypsy moth are shown in red. Map by DATCP

Contact information related to quarantines:

- **Moving wood products within Wisconsin**

Contact Christopher Deegan at 608-224-4573 or e-mail christopher.deegan@wisconsin.gov.

- **Moving wood products out of Wisconsin**

Contact JoAnn Cruse at 608-231-9545 or e-mail Joann.M.Cruse@usda.gov.

Eastern Tent Caterpillars

If you have been out and about you no doubt have noticed the very visible tents made by the eastern tent caterpillar.

DNR put out a statewide press release and a local TV station did an interview with me on this critter last week. Some people confuse it with gypsy moth which does not make a tent. Some folks cut out the branches with tents in them and others sometimes torch the tents, both of which does as much or more damage to the tree than just letting them be. There are some simple homeowner controls that can be done to reduce feeding damage however. This was the point of our press release... that they are not a major forest pest and not to be too concerned. Some media outlets had a more dire message which is not the case.



Late instar eastern tent caterpillar observed in northern Sauk County this week.

The only time I would recommend considering control measures might be a prized yard or fruit tree or if you have some new planted oak or fruit tree seedlings or small saplings you are trying to establish. They prefer fruit trees in the genus prunus (apple, wild plum, cherry, etc). If one did want to protect prized fruit trees or young seedling/saplings to reduce feeding damage a few simple steps might be to put on gloves (to avoid rash from caterpillar hairs) and pull out the tent when caterpillars are in it, often early in the morning, and soak them in a bucket of soapy water. For higher tents, one could use a stick or an old broom handle and twirl tents out of trees like cotton candy and again dip the tent in a bucket of soapy water over night. If there are numerous tents on a prized yard or fruit tree you might consider spraying a small band of a btk based

insecticide around the tent if the foliage is still present. They need to feed on foliage to ingest the btk. In some cases it is now too late for this method as trees may be defoliated. Another option would be to bust open the tent and spray them with an insecticidal soap one can get from the garden center.

ETC are native caterpillars and are a source of food for some species of birds. So if you let nature take its course just monitor defoliation on your yard trees and if you get a lot of defoliation consider mulching and/or watering trees during a prolonged dry period and they should recover just fine. So far we have had good spring moisture so I am not anticipating much problem with trees recovering and putting out new leaves.

We will likely be getting more reports over the next couple weeks as the caterpillars start their wandering phase looking for places to pupate. I saw my first wandering ETC caterpillar on the sidewalk yesterday morning. The phones will be getting busy.

Info for homeowners on eastern tent caterpillar:
<http://learningstore.uwex.edu/assets/pdfs/A2933.pdf>



Eastern tent caterpillars returning to the tent after a pre-dawn feeding run.

Forest Tent Caterpillars (they don't make tents!)

Last year we had some defoliation mostly in Sauk, Grant, and Crawford counties by this other native tent caterpillar (which does not make a tent). I am not sure what to expect from this critter in terms of defoliation this year. So far I have only noticed one small group on a buckthorn leaf in northern Dane County. I know what you are thinking, but no I did not see much feeding at all on these leaves. I am interested in getting reports of forest tent caterpillar (no need to report eastern tent caterpillar sightings please!) as this will help with aerial defoliation surveys early this summer.



A young forest tent caterpillar on a buckthorn leaf. Note the leaf rust typical on buckthorn leaves.

For comparisons of gypsy moth, eastern tent and forest tent caterpillars visit: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/gypsymothinwisconsin/life-cycle-and-biology-3/life-cycle-and-biology/>

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA)

The Michigan Dept. of Agriculture recently reported that hemlock woolly adelgid had been detected at two sites in far southwest Michigan (due east of Chicago, Illinois). This exotic insect had previously been found in other parts of Lower Michigan and eradication efforts had been undertaken. Heavy hemlock mortality has occurred in eastern states where this insect is well-established.



Hemlock woolly adelgid on hemlock.
Photo from www.forestryimages.org

Wisconsin DNR forest health staff continues to survey for this insect. If you see small cotton balls on hemlock branches in Wisconsin, contact a DNR forest health specialist. This exotic insect has not yet been found in Wisconsin. For more information on this insect, visit: http://na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest_al/hemlock/hwa05.htm.



An example of a small stand of hemlock found in scattered pockets in southern WI



Branch grabber for seed orchard trapping worked great for reaching hemlock branches just out of reach. Thanks to retired forest entomologist, Dave Hall for this invention!

Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD)

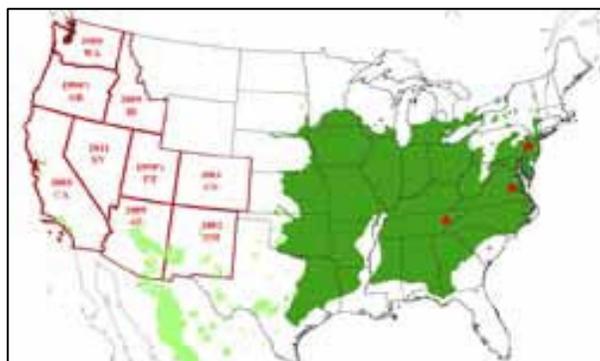
Thousand cankers disease, a complex between the walnut twig beetle and the fungus *Geosmithia morbida*, has been implicated in the dieback and mortality of walnuts in the west. There are now three areas in the native range of black walnut where TCD has been found.

Wisconsin DNR and DATCP continue to monitor for TCD. University of California, Davis researchers have now developed a pheromone lure to trap the walnut twig beetle. WI DNR staff will be setting traps at DNR parks and forests along with some private woodlands this spring to test these traps.

Please report declining walnuts to a forest health specialist.

For more information on TCD:

http://na.fs.fed.us/pubs/palerts/cankers_disease/thousand_cankers_disease_screen_res.pdf



Map showing western states with TCD and red points for three eastern states confirmed with TCD. The dark green is the native range of black walnut. Map from USDA FS pest alert.

Anthracnose

With the cool wet spring I am anticipating we will be seeing increasing levels of anthracnose leaf fungi. Anthracnose is a generic term referencing many species of fungi that attack leaves of various tree species. Ash, maples, and oaks often experience these fungal diseases. Trees adjacent to wet areas or low cool spots may see greater impact than upland and open grown trees.

Generally anthracnose fungi are not a major tree health concern and mostly a cosmetic issue. Sanitation of fallen infected leaves may help reduce future infections. The University of Wisconsin has a series of publications individually for ash, maples, and oaks that are available if you get calls from the public:

<http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/pddc/woody.html>

Oak anthracnose may be confused for oak wilt. For a nice comparison of leaf symptoms between these two issues visit:

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/yardandgarden/ygbriefs/P432oakanthracnose.html>



Anthracnose fungi affecting oak from a previous wet spring

Miscellaneous

Research To Revive The American Chestnut Tree

The fungal pathogen that causes chestnut blight has decimated a once prominent tree in our forests of northeastern US. Here is an article on research looking at developing resistant chestnuts:

<http://redandblack.com/2012/04/18/university-researcher-trying-to-revive-the-chestnut-tree/>

Looks Like There Will Be No Shortage Of New Forest Health Issues

Live plant imports are a major source for new forest insects and diseases. Here is an article by research scientists Andrew M Liebhold, et al: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/04/120409133928.htm>

Ever Wanted To Know How Far It Is From Here To Eternity?

Now there is a web site for that and many other places (Thanks to Forest Pest Specialist, Todd Lanigan, for sharing this site): <http://www.infoplease.com/atlas/calculate-distance.html>

Vegans Bash Starbucks For Beetle Coloring in Frappuccinos

This USA story came out a while ago that many of you may have seen. Sorry for those of you who did not run out to taste test one of these as I heard they have stopped using the “bugs” (they are technically not beetles but rather true bugs as was pointed out by alert forest pest specialist, Mike Hillstrom). When I saw this story I could not wait to try one out...and it was pretty good! I wonder how many other pest folks also tried one of these frappuccinos for the first time! There must have been a brief week with a major spike in sales!

<http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/food/story/2012-03-28/starbucks-strawberry-frappuccino-beetle-juice/53839006/1?csp=hf>

Earth Day Celebration - Henry Vilas Zoo (photo's by Jeff Roe, WI DNR)

A special Earth Day celebration was organized this spring at the Henry Vilas Zoo with participants from Henry Vilas Zoo, Dane County Parks, Dane County Tree Board, City of Madison Forestry, City of Fitchburg Forestry, WI DNR and Private Arborist Sean Gere, of Gere Tree Care. It was a great opportunity for outreach and education related to community forestry and forest health issues such as emerald ash borer. It was also a great opportunity to learn tree climbing techniques and just for hanging around!



For Those Of You Not On The Urban Forestry Newsletter Distribution List

The most recent issue of the *Wisconsin Urban & Community Forests* newsletter has a number of good forest health articles that might be of interest: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/UrbanForests/documents/vol20no1.pdf>.

This issue features:

- Mechanized harvesting of urban trees in Oak Creek
- Tree City USA
- Bird City Wisconsin
- Community Profile: Village of Sturtevant
- Tree Profile: Korean pine
- Project Profile: Fitchburg's land cover and ash identification models
- Notes from the Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic
- Arborvitae leafminer
- Urban Site Index research notes

Invasive Plant Corner – Amur Honeysuckle

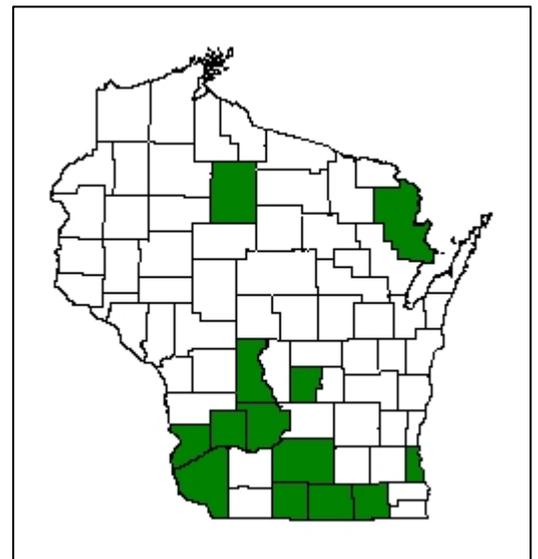
During a recent site visit in N.W. Dane County I noticed a plant I had not seen before. Based on the distribution map I must just have not noticed this one before. I was able to identify the unknown shrub as amur honeysuckle, (*Lonicera maackii*). A number of species of honeysuckle, often referred to as “bush honeysuckle”, are common invasive shrubs that landowners often are working at controlling. This particular honeysuckle has larger and more pointed leaves. I had my identification confirmed by DNR Conservation Biologist, Kelly Kearns and she said this is one they are hoping to contain and prevent further spread. For more information on this species visit: http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/fact/amur_honeysuckle.htm

For more information on invasives visit:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/>

Specific to invasive terrestrial plants:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/species.asp?filterBy=Terrestrial&filterVal=Y>



Distribution map of reported amur honeysuckle



Opposite leaf pattern of amur honeysuckle



Note the larger pointed leaves of amur honeysuckle.

SOR Forest Health Assistance
Wisconsin DNR, Forest Health Protection Unit
September 2011 to September 2012

Contacts for DNR staff, municipal foresters, and forestry cooperators

For general forest health and municipal level urban forest health issues

Mark Guthmiller (SOR region: SCR & SER combined) 608-275-3223

For gypsy moth

Mark Guthmiller (SCR Team area) 608-275-3223

Bill McNee (SER Team area) 920-662-5430

Andrea Diss-Torrance (Statewide issues) 608-264-9247

For emerald ash borer

Mark Guthmiller (SCR Team area) 608-275-3223

Bill McNee (SER Team area) 920-662-5430

For beech bark disease/beechn scale

Mark Guthmiller (SCR Team areas) 608-275-3223

Bill McNee (SER Team area) 920-662-5430

For invasive plants

Tom Boos (Statewide issues) 608-266-9276

Direct public inquiries regarding yard tree concerns to UW county or state extension offices:

UW Extension <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/>

or

Emerald ash borer hotline 1-800-462-2803

Emerald ash borer e-mail DATCPEmeraldAshBorer@wi.gov

Gypsy moth hotline 1-800-642-MOTH

Additional Program Web-based Resources:

Forest Health web site: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/topic/ForestHealth/>

Gypsy Moth web site: <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov/>

Emerald ash borer web site: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/topic/ForestHealth/EmeraldAshBorer.html>

Emerald ash borer cooperative state web site: <http://emeraldashborer.wi.gov/>

Note: Southern Region is composed of both SCR and SER Team Counties

SCR Team Counties: Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, Richland, Rock and Sauk

SER Team Counties: Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha