

West Central WI Forest Health Report

March 2012

Topics covered this month:

Insects

[Emerald ash borer](#)
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Diseases

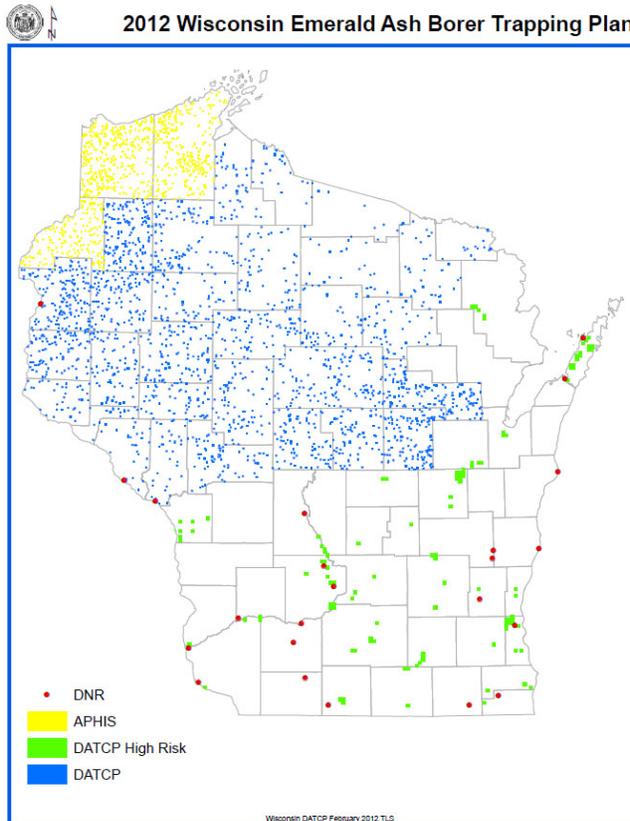
[Oak wilt](#)
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Insects Emerald Ash Borer

2012 EAB trapping - DNR, DATCP and APHIS will continue trapping for EAB in Wisconsin this summer. DATCP and APHIS will place ~2,500 purple panel traps (blue and yellow dots) in the northwest and north central part of Wisconsin based on the new forest service risk models (see Feb 2012 WCR forest health report). DATCP and DNR will also place traps at ~125 high risk locations including state parks in southern and eastern WI.



Options for local EAB detection efforts - As funding continues to decline for DATCP EAB trapping, communities should consider if local detection options are appropriate. To aid communities in the decision process several new guidance documents are available. Contact your forest health specialist for a copy of the documents. We will be posting them on the web very soon.

Figure 1. Wisconsin's 2012 EAB trapping plan. Map by DATCP.

Gypsy Moth

Quarantine Update - DATCP recently announced that starting April 1, 2012 Ashland, Bayfield and Clark Counties will be added to the federal and state gypsy moth quarantine list.

2012 Spray Program – DATCP will continue spraying in western WI in 2012 to slow the spread of gypsy moth. DNR will have a very small suppression program this year with only 1 area of Marinette County being sprayed. You can sign up to get email updates about gypsy moth spraying and get more detailed maps of spray locations at <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov/>.

Gypsy Moth Hatch 2012 – Gypsy moth larvae have likely already started to hatch in southern Wisconsin. In central Wisconsin we are currently predicting that 50% hatch will occur around April 5 for counties near Monroe County and around April 21 for counties near Barron County. Defoliation may be visible by early May if the warm weather we have had this spring continues.

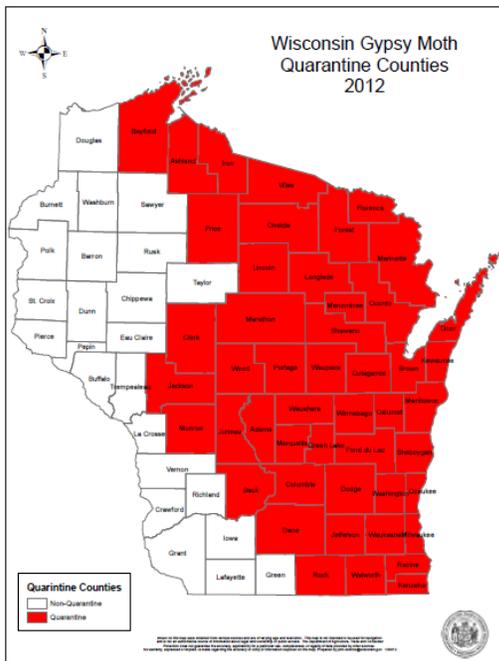


Figure 2. Counties quarantined for gypsy moth in Wisconsin (updated March 2012).

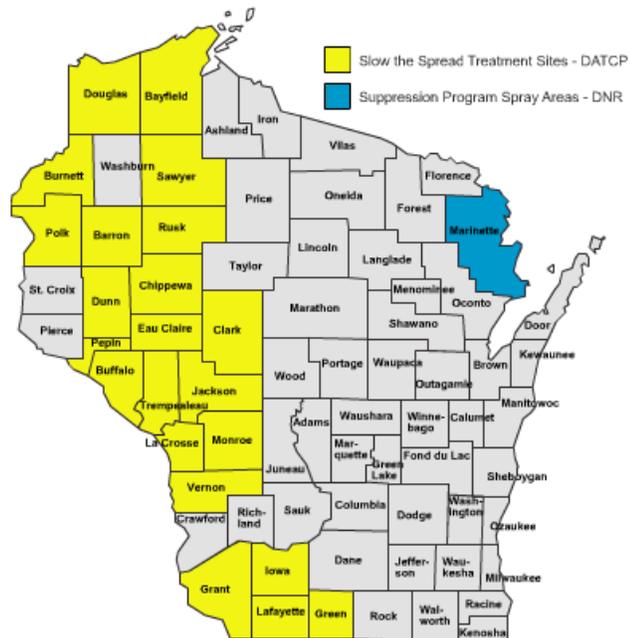


Figure 3. A map of counties with areas that will be sprayed for gypsy moth in 2012.

Eastern Tent Caterpillar

Eastern tent caterpillars have started hatching very early this spring in the southern and central parts of the state. Inspect your cherry, apple and crabapple trees over the next few weeks for small tents with the young caterpillars. On a cool morning or cool, cloudy day when the caterpillars are in the tent, remove the tent by hand or with a rake (you do not need to clip the branches) and drop the caterpillars in soapy water to kill them. Early removal will reduce the number of leaves they eat. Insecticides are typically not necessary.



Photos 1, 2. Early instar ETC feeding on black cherry near Wisconsin Rapids on March 28.

Diseases

Oak Wilt

Foresters, tree care professionals and landowners should consider that warm spring temperatures this year increase the risk of oak wilt infection from cutting or pruning prior to the typical April 1 (south of tension zone) or 15 (north of tension zone) recommended stop dates. If you have had 7 days of temperatures over 60°F then you should consider implementing oak wilt guidelines now, rather than waiting until April.

White Pine Blister Rust

The characteristic yellow-orange fruiting bodies of the white pine blister rust fungus will appear over the next few weeks. This is the easiest time of year to confirm a tree has white pine blister rust. Removing infected branches is the best way to keep the main stem from becoming infected. The fungus may have already infected the main stem if cankers are within 4 inches. Trees with infected main stems should be removed.



Photo 3. Main stem and branch cankers with orange fruiting bodies indicating this white pine is infected with blister rust.

Abiotic 2011 Precipitation

2011 was an average year for precipitation in central Wisconsin according to the Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program (<http://www.southernclimate.org/about.php>). Central Wisconsin received 32.25 inches of precipitation compared to an average of 31.58 since 1895. A relatively wet spring was offset by the below average snowfall in winter 2011. West Central Wisconsin ended 2011 nearly two inches below the yearly average mostly due to a very dry fall.

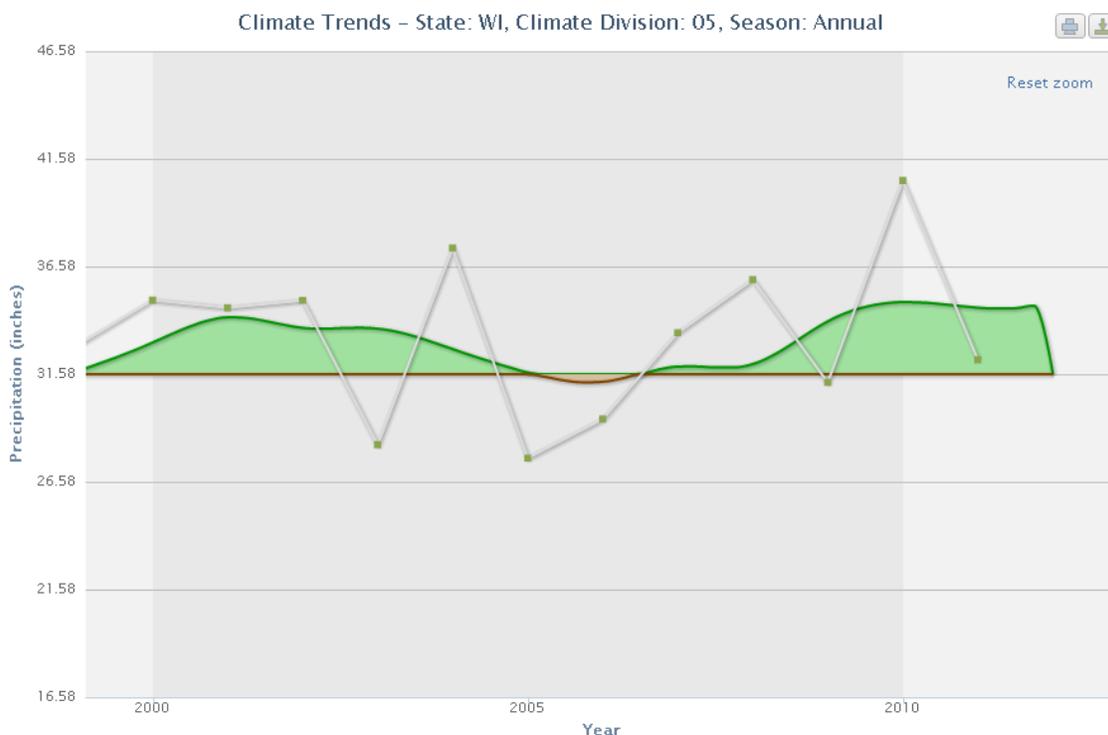


Figure 4. A graph of average precipitation in central Wisconsin from 2000-2011.
<http://www.southernclimate.org/about.php>

Winter Desiccation

We recently had a report of several plantings of spruce in central Wisconsin with symptoms of winter desiccation (winter burn). Conifers are particularly susceptible during warm, below average snowfall winters. Conifers affected by desiccation typically turn a yellowish color about mid-winter or early spring and needles start to turn tan/brown and may fall off. Trees will continue to decline until the ground is no longer frozen and roots can take up moisture from the soil. Conifers may recover even if needles are killed if the buds are still alive and produce new growth as usual in the spring. Please let us know if you see affected trees this spring.

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



<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/staff.html>

West Central Region:

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Statewide reporting systems:

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://gypsymoth.wi.gov/>

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

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. 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/topic/ForestHealth/Publications.html> 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.