

West Central WI Forest Health Report

May 2012

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Insects

Eastern Tent Caterpillar

Eastern tent caterpillar tents are very noticeable at this point and we have received lots of calls asking how to get rid of them. Keep in mind that they are a native insect. Management is typically only necessary on high value fruit trees or young oaks that need to be protected. The best method is to put on a pair of gloves and remove the tent by hand. Early morning works best when all the caterpillars are in the tent. Then simply put them in a bucket of soapy water or step on them. Do not burn the tents or cut the branches! Many caterpillars in the southern part of the state have already climbed off the trees to find a place to pupate.



Photo 1. ETC tent on a black cherry near Wisconsin Rapids.

Forest Tent Caterpillar

Forest health staff found several stands with typically light defoliation by forest tent caterpillar last summer in the north central and southwestern parts of WI. Please let us know if you see any defoliation this spring as we have already found caterpillars in Madison, Baraboo and other areas. Forest tent caterpillars do not build tents and are typically found on aspen or oak trees.



Photo 2. Forest tent caterpillar. FTC have white spots down the back whereas ETC have a white stripe.

Gypsy Moth

The first gypsy moth hatch in Wisconsin this year was recorded on April 2 in Green County, south of Madison. The hatch was significantly earlier this year than last as expected. DATCP's Slow the Spread program is well underway with spraying already complete in the southwest corner of the state. WCR counties will be sprayed in the next few days, weather permitting. We are predicting the return of nuisance populations in some areas this year but the recent wet weather may help reduce the risk. We have not had any reports of defoliation to date so please let us know if notice any gypsy moth feeding. You can find more information about the spray program and how to reduce damage at <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov/>



Photo 3. Gypsy moth caterpillar found at Devil's Lake State Park on 4/23/12.

Tamarack Mortality from Eastern Larch Beetle (by Brian Schwingle)

Reports from loggers and foresters have been trickling in the last few years about how all the tamaracks are dying. Well, they aren't all dying, but there are many scattered infested tamarack stands around. A few are heavily infested, and these should be regenerated as soon as possible. The majority of stands with infestations have scattered areas of infested trees usually comprising 10% or less of the stand. I recommend checking out your largest and oldest tamarack stands now via aerial photographs—mortality from eastern larch beetle shows up in those photographs. This pest can be quite aggressive, “moving through a stand like a slow fire,” as my counterpart in Minnesota put it. At other times, it kills small pockets of tamaracks and behaves itself.

For more information check out Mike Albers article in the Minnesota forest insect and disease newsletter (<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fid/april2012/tamarack.html>) or contact us for more details.



Photo 4. Eastern Larch Beetle infested tamaracks in northern WI. Photo by Brian Schwingle.

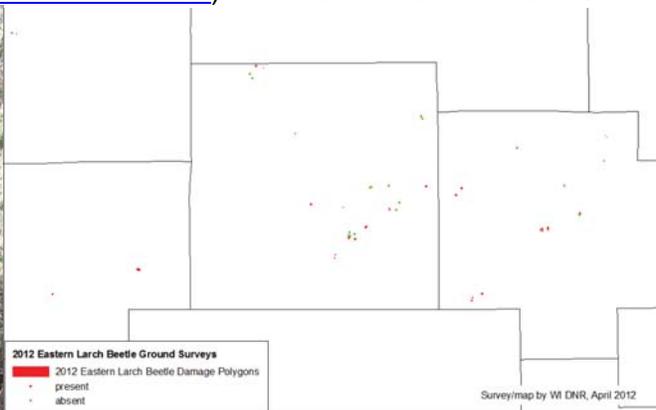


Figure 1. Map showing tamarack infested (red) with eastern larch beetle in northern WI.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

Surveys throughout WI did not find any HWA infested hemlock this spring. However, a new infestation was discovered this spring in southwest Michigan (due east of Chicago, Illinois) and nearby in Indiana. HWA had been found in other parts of lower Michigan but this is the closest infestation to WI to date. Infested trees in both states will be destroyed. Ohio recently announced the states second infested site (both found this year). If you notice small cotton covered insects on hemlock please let us know immediately.

Aspen Blotchminer and Missing Pine Bark

Have you noticed pine trees with missing bark in areas with aspen blotchminer infestations? Read about the cause in Minnesota's insect and disease newsletter at:
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fid/april2012/missingbark.html>

Spruce Plantation Management

Researchers working in northern Minnesota published a new study evaluating the effect of thinning on the growth and survivorship of white spruce affected by spruce budworm. They concluded that maintaining live crown ratios of at least 40% (across stocking levels) resulted in high tree and stand growth rates as well as a positive response to thinning.

Diseases

Leaf/Needle Diseases (by Todd Lanigan)

With the recent wet weather you may see fungal diseases popping up soon, if you have not seen some already. Here are some diseases you may see. This is by far not a complete list of diseases or tree species that are susceptible to the diseases.

Hardwoods

- **Anthracnose** – large brown areas of dead leaf tissue. Leaves will curl and/or shrivel up. Ash, maples, oaks (generally white), etc. are susceptible to this disease. If the disease is severe enough you may get some twig/branch dieback.
- **Leaf Blotch** – scattered brown areas of dead leaf tissue. If on the margin of the leaf, they can also curl up. Aspen, birch, maple, oaks, etc. are susceptible to this disease.
- **Leaf Spot** – small scattered brown areas of dead leaf tissue. Aspen, birch, maple, oaks, etc. are susceptible to this disease.
- **Tar Spot** – raised black spots on the leaf. Looks like tar dripped on the leaf. Silver maple very susceptible.
- **Apple Scab** – brown blotches on the leaves and possibly the fruit later on.
- **Leaf Blight** – new growth will turn black and the shoot can have a “Shepherd’s Crook” shape to it. Young aspen very susceptible.
- **Frost Damage** – leaves will be black in color and look somewhat wet or slimy. All hardwoods and conifers are susceptible.

Conifers

- **Diplodia Shoot Blight** – new growth killed and shoot can have a “Shepherd’s Crook” shape to it, or dead needles on the branches. Black fruit bodies may be present on the needle or under the needle fascicle. Jack, red, Scotch, and White pines, and Colorado blue spruce are susceptible to this disease. (Can resemble red pine shoot moth damage – check for hollowed out shoots on red pine).
- **Pine Needle Rust (Goldenrod Rust)** – cream colored blisters on the needles of red pine seedlings. Normally this disease does not kill the seedlings.
- **Cyclaneusma Needlecast** – cream colored blisters on the needles of Scotch pine. Needles will turn brown and drop off.
- **Lophodermium Needlecast** – black football shaped fruit bodies on the needle with a slit down the middle. Needles will turn brown and drop off. Scotch and white pines are susceptible.
- **Rhizosphaera Needlecast** – needles turn purple in color and have small black fruit bodies in the stomata. Colorado blue spruce very susceptible.
- **Spruce Needle Drop (Sneed)** – small black fruit bodies on the needles and twigs. Foliage is chlorotic and trees just look bad. It is not known if this is a primary or secondary pathogen. So far researchers have not been able to fulfill Koch’s Postulate with this fungus.
- **Fir Needle Rust** - cream colored blisters on the needles of Balsam and Fraser firs. Needles turn brown and will drop off.
- **Lirula Needlecast** – needle discoloration on Balsam and Fraser firs. Depending on the species of *Lirula*, there can be a single or double row of fruit bodies on the underside of the needle.

Abiotic Flooding

The recent heavy rains have caused flooding in some areas of WI. If you notice any stands affected by flooding please let us know so we can map and monitor them.

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



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

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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.