

# West Central WI Forest Health Report

June 2012

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## Insects Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald ash borer is in the peak of the adult flight season and DATCP has confirmed multiple new finds recently.

- Green Bay confirmed at least 15 infested trees on Wisconsin Public Service property in the area where a beetle was caught on a trap in 2009. WPS will cut 36 ash trees on the property to try and contain the infestation.
- An arborist working for the city of Mukwonago found an infested ash tree at the intersection of State Highway 83 and County Highway NN. Waukesha County has been quarantined since 2009 but this is the first find in the county.
- Two infestations have been discovered in Walworth County. An adult EAB was collected on a private woodlot approximately a ½ mile from the state line. This find is roughly 10 miles southwest of Lake Geneva which also discovered an infested tree in the downtown area. Walworth County will be quarantined soon.
- The Port Washington city forester discovered EAB infested trees on the 400 block of North Powers Street. This is the second find in Ozaukee County.
- Homeowners caught a beetle emerging from an ash tree in their yard in Janesville. This is the first find in Rock County which will be quarantined soon.
- DNR forest health captured beetles on two double-decker traps at Richard Bong State Recreation Area in Kenosha County. Infested trees were discovered nearby. This is the first find on state property in WI.
- 12 Wisconsin counties are now known to have EAB infestations. More info at <http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/index.jsp>



Photo 1. An EAB infested tree in Mukwonago. Photo by Mick Skwarok.

## Jack Pine Budworm and Associates

Jack pine budworm populations are significantly larger this year than last in both red and jack pine stands in central Wisconsin. Red pine shoot moth and coneworms were also common. All three insects were attacking a single branch on some trees. Most budworm larvae have pupated recently so the damage in the central part of the state should be done for the year. We will conduct egg mass surveys later in the summer to determine the potential for damage next spring. I'm expecting to find plenty of egg masses so if we have another mild winter this year damage could be severe in some of these stands in 2013.



Photos 2-5. Top: A jack pine budworm caterpillar and pupae. Bottom: A red pine shoot moth caterpillar and a red pine branch tip infested with red pine shoot moth and coneworms.

## Spring Defoliators

Aerial surveys found some minor to locally heavy pockets of defoliation in southwestern WI but only very light defoliation in west central WI. Damage in the SW has been attributed to forest tent caterpillar and elm spanworm but gypsy moth caterpillars were reported in several of these areas as well. Large gypsy moth caterpillars and pupae have been confirmed by Lake Arbutus in northern Jackson and southern Clark Counties but only light defoliation is being reported.

Photo 6. A group of trees defoliated this spring in SW Wisconsin.



## Gypsy Moth

Gypsy moth treatments are nearly complete for the year and DATCP trappers are well over half done setting the 19,000 traps used to monitor adult populations. Moths will start emerging in late June in the southern part of the state and about a week later farther north. You can find more information about gypsy moth at <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov/>

## Rose Chafer/Japanese Beetle

Rose chafer beetles are abundant this year in the central sands. Outbreaks typically only occur in areas with very sandy soils. The beetles are attacking a variety of plants in gardens, nurseries and fields. They prefer blossoms but also skeletonize leaves much like the dreaded Japanese beetle. Damage from rose chafers should subside by early July. Control is difficult, as with Japanese beetles, because the adult beetles are strong fliers and can reinfest from a wide area even after spraying insecticide. Rose chafer larvae are one of the many types of white grubs that live in the soil feeding on grass and weed roots. More info at (<http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Assets/pdfs/A3122.pdf>).

Japanese beetles are just getting started in the southern part of the state and will be a nuisance for the next few months.

Photos 7-8. Rose chafer beetles and damage to maple trees in southern Juneau County. Photos by Lee Kucher.



## Spittlebugs

It's been a great spring for spittlebugs across the state. The frothy mass helps protect the spittlebug larva from predators and dehydration as it sucks the juices from its host. Large populations can cause damage to twigs so you may notice some branch flagging. Control may be necessary in some plantation settings if damage is severe.



Photos 9-10.  
Spittlebug larvae feeding on white pine and jack pine.

## Aphids

Spittlebugs are not the only sucking insects having a good spring. Aphids have also been abundant, in particular on maple trees.

Heavy aphid infestations can cause curling or stunting of the leaves or premature leaf drop. Aphids also produce large quantities of sticky honeydew (sugar water) that covers the leaves and can lead to sooty mold growing on the tree. Aphids can be controlled with insecticides but for yard trees using a hose to spray them off may be the easiest option. Control will also be provided by the array of predators, including lacewings and wasps, which eat aphids.



Photo 11. Woolly alder aphid feeding on a silver maple.

## Cherry Scallop Shell Moth

Cherry scallop shell moth is active again this year near Wisconsin Rapids. I received several reports from landowners that their lawn and house were covered with thousands of moths. Their major concern was that their pets were eating so many they were getting sick. Fortunately the moths were only around long enough to mate and lay eggs. Those eggs have now hatched and the caterpillars have started creating the tube-like nests they make by tying black cherry leaves together. The caterpillars are actively feeding from within the nest causing eaten leaves to turn red-brown as they die. Black cherries could be defoliated in some areas but predators should help reduce the damage. Trees should recover as long as we do not have a drought this summer. 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)



Photos 12-13. The tube like nest and caterpillars of the cherry scallop shell moth.

## Abiotic Frost Damage

Many aspen, ash, and oak trees that were damaged by frost earlier this year are sending out a second set of leaves and are looking much better. As long as we don't have a drought the trees should recover fully.

**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](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/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](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/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.