

West Central WI Forest Health Report

August 2012

Topics covered this month:

Insects

[Gypsy moth](#)
[Weevil damage](#)
[Yellow spotted longhorned beetle](#)
[Boxelder bugs](#)

Diseases

[Oak wilt](#)
[Oak flagging](#)
[Annosum](#)

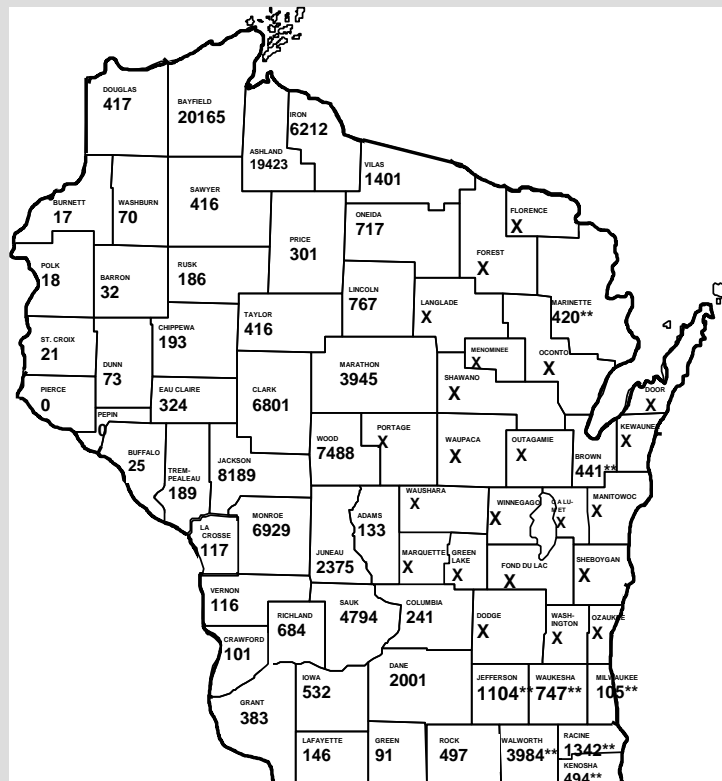
Abiotic

[Drought damage](#)

Insects Gypsy Moth

DATCP is in the process of checking and taking down their gypsy moth traps. Chris Whitney reports that as of August 15th 105, 583 male gypsy moths have been counted across WI (78% of traps checked, 14% of traps taken down). Non-quarantine counties continue to have low numbers. Ashland and Bayfield counties continue to be the largest area of concern and it looks like there is an influx of moths moving into the area from the N-NE. The invading moths may also impact Sawyer and Washburn counties. We will send out more information about areas of concern in west central Wisconsin when the final counts are complete.

Figure 1. Adult male gypsy moth trap counts as of 08/15/12.



Weevil Damage on Young Pine

In May and June we noticed small black weevils feeding on young pines in several areas of central Wisconsin. The weevil turns out to be *Magdalis perforata*. This weevil breeds in dead and dying branches of pines from Canada to Florida. The adult is bluish-black, wedge-shaped, shiny, and from 4-6mm long. Eggs are deposited at or near the tips of branches. The larvae bore to the center of the stem and then tunnel through the pith toward its base. Trees under 12 feet tall killed by insects or disease appear to be preferred; however, slash left during thinning or pruning operations and the dead lower branches of old trees in closed stands are also attacked. **Adults feed on the new shoots of pines, usually on trees growing in young, open stands. Deep pits are chewed at the bases of needle fascicles.** Trees attacked by these weevils also had damage from metallic wood boring beetles, chafer beetles, and other weevils. Multiple insect stressors combined with the drought this summer caused affected pines to die in several stands. Weevil control may be necessary in some stands next spring.



Photos 1, 2. A *Magdalis perforata* weevil feeding on young pine near Wisconsin Rapids on June 12th and dead needles caused by the deep pits the weevils chew.

Yellow Spotted Longhorned Beetle

Yet another invasive longhorned beetle has been found emerging from pallets imported from Asia. Beetles had also escaped the facility and attacked trees across the street. Fortunately, a maintenance worker saved the beetle he found and a pest control technician treating the facility reported it. The beetle was identified as the Yellow spotted longhorned beetle. Yellow spotted longhorned beetles have also been found in Italy and the United Kingdom and in warehouses in Europe and Canada. The beetles attack Ficus, Fig, Holly and Mulberry. Information from <http://www.pctonline.com/rare-invasive-beetle-caught-pennsylvania.aspx> and http://www.eppo.int/QUARANTINE/Alert_List/insects/psacotha_hilaris.htm



Photo 3. A yellow spotted longhorned beetle captured in Pennsylvania. Photo by Craig Sansig, Viking Pest Control.

Boxelder Bugs

We've already started getting reports of heavy infestations of boxelder bugs on houses, sidewalks, and many other places. Boxelder bug numbers typically are high in drought years so this was expected. These true bugs feed on the leaves, flowers, and seedpods of boxelders and silver maples. They are harmless to humans but can become a nuisance when they move indoors to try to find a protected place to overwinter. The best prevention method is to seal areas by windows and doors the bugs use to get indoors. If you find them inside just vacuum them up with the hose attachment. For more information see <http://hort.uwex.edu/articles/boxelder-bugs>



Photo 4. Adult and immature box elder bugs. Photo from <http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/dg0998.html>

Diseases

Oak Wilt Found in Lincoln, Sawyer, Vilas Counties

Three new counties have recently been confirmed to have trees infected with oak wilt. Lincoln, Sawyer and Vilas Counties become the newest northwoods counties to have their first finds of the disease. Only 14 Wisconsin counties are yet to find trees infected with oak wilt: Ashland, Bayfield, Calumet, Door, Douglas, Forest, Iron, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Price, Rusk, Sheboygan, Taylor, and Washburn Counties.

Oak Flagging (by Brian Schwingle)

There are long stretches of road throughout northern and central Wisconsin where the oaks have scattered dead branches. In Vilas Co., the cause is a fungal pathogen. The suspect is *Botryosphaeria*. Salt stress and freeze damage likely promoted this disease. For ornamental oak owners, a big task with potentially little pay-off would be to prune off (and rake up) infected branchlets and destroy. See <http://hyg.ipm.illinois.edu/pastpest/200213b.html> for more information.



Figure 5. An oak with flagging branches likely caused by stress and *Botryosphaeria* fungus. Photo by Brian Schwingle.

Annosum



Photo 6. Check out this annosum conk found by Kent Glazer on July 31st in Portage County! This is a great example of how the conks deteriorate and add new growth (bright white areas on the left) each year.

Abiotic Drought Damage

Check out Mark Guthmiller's excellent info on drought in his most recent forest health update <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/documents/2012/SOR120802.pdf>



Photos 7, 8. Drought stressed oak and maple trees in the Baraboo Hills surveyed on 8/8/12 by Mark Guthmiller and Mike Hillstrom.

Interesting Insect Photo of the Month – A pair of very attractive Milkweed Tussock Caterpillars enjoying a hearty meal of milkweed near Eau Claire (Photo by Todd Lanigan)



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 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. 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.