

West Central WI Forest Health Report

February 2013

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Insects

Eastern Larch Beetle

Surveys in northern Wisconsin last year revealed almost 1000 acres of tamarack forest (in 108 stands) infested with Eastern Larch Beetle (ELB). We will look for damage in the WCD during aerial surveys in 2013. Please let us know of any damage you notice so we can map it. It would be a good idea to check any tamarack stands you manage for damage. Dead tamarack may be visible in aerial photographs. In the field, focus on any tamarack that appears to have red bark as these trees are likely to be infested with ELB. Stands affected by this native bark beetle should be salvaged and regenerated if appropriate. More detailed management suggestions may be available in the next few years from the Minnesota team that is currently working on tamarack management recommendations.



Photo 1. Tamarack with bark that looks red from Eastern Larch Beetle damage. Photo by Brian Schwingle.

Emerald Ash Borer (By Bill McNee)

In the past week, two communities in southern Milwaukee County have had their first EAB detections: the village of Greendale and the city of Greenfield. The infestation was discovered after a city forester from a nearby community noticed suspicious woodpecker activity in Greendale. The pest was found nearby in Greenfield a few days later. The detections are about one mile from known-infested trees in the City of Franklin. For more information, visit: www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov. Milwaukee County is already under an EAB quarantine.



Photo 2. An ash tree with missing bark caused by woodpeckers looking for emerald ash borer larvae to eat. Photo by Bill McNee.

Asian Longhorned Beetle

Check out this new document on Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) <http://na.fs.fed.us/pubs/alb/alb-and-host-trees-09-12-2012-screen.pdf>. It has great photos of the beetle, host trees, signs of infestation and much more. This invasive pest has not been discovered in Wisconsin to date but is a major threat to the states maple trees. Please let us know if you think you see the beetle or infested trees. All suspect beetles the past few years have been the native white spotted sawyer beetle (shown in the document) but if you're not sure please give us a call.



Diseases

Oak Wilt

Forest health staff continue to monitor the spread of oak wilt across northern Wisconsin. Forest health specialist Brian Schwingle put together this map of known oak wilt locations to date. If you know of additional locations not on the map please let us know.

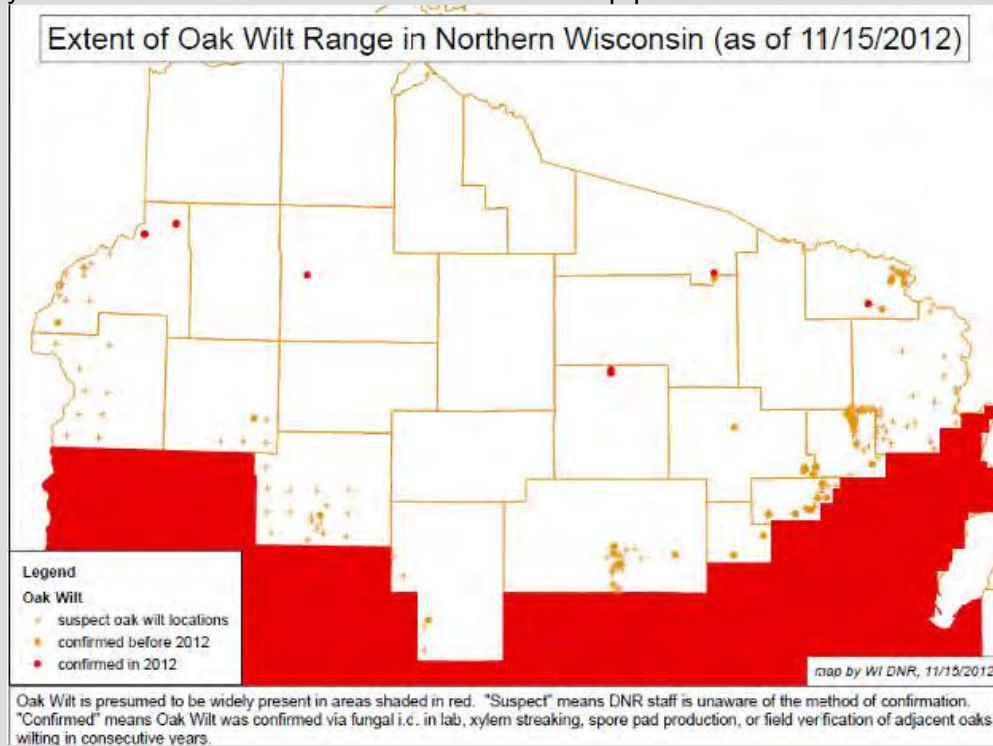


Figure 1. A map of oak wilt distribution across northern Wisconsin as of November 2012. Map by Brian Schwingle.

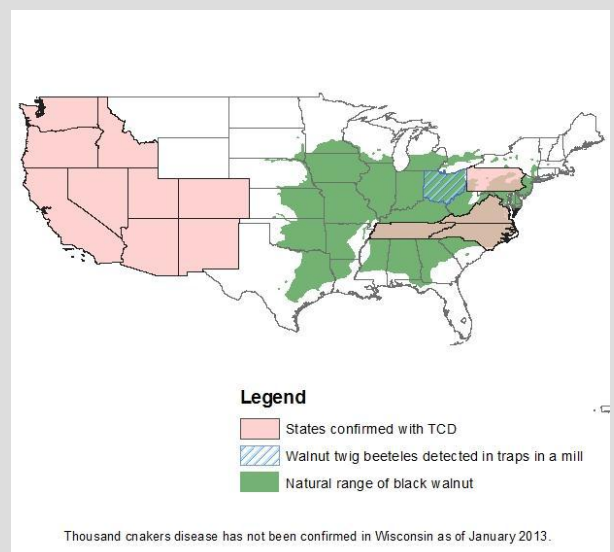
Thousand Cankers Disease (by Bill McNee)

In January it was announced that thousand cankers disease (TCD) had been detected in North Carolina for the first time, on the NC side of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. In addition, the tiny beetle known to vector TCD, the walnut twig beetle, has been found at a wood-importing business near Cincinnati, Ohio. No signs of TCD have been seen in Ohio, though.

For more information about the North Carolina detection of TCD, visit:

<http://www.ncagr.gov/paffairs/release/2013/1-13-Thousand-Cankers-Quarantine-Haywood-County.htm>.

Figure 2. States confirmed with TCD (red) and Walnut Twig Beetle (blue hash). Map by Kyoko Scanlon.



Chlorotic Spruce

The forest health team has periodically noticed spruce stands with varying degrees of chlorosis in recent years. Some sites recover after a few years without any management and others continue to decline it seems. We started monitoring a few sites in 2012 and are looking for additional sites to monitor. Please let us know if you see any. Affected sites tend to have heavier soils and have been recently flooded. Soil tests suggest the soil pH is likely too basic for the spruce. The basic soil pH seems to result in micronutrient issues that cause the chlorosis. The trees do not appear to have any insect or disease issues. Ultimately, we hope to confirm the cause of the chlorosis and develop management recommendations. We are currently testing if using iron sulfate or elemental sulfur to acidify the soil will alleviate the chlorosis.



Photo 3. Chlorotic spruce stand in central Wisconsin.

Abiotic Drought

The drought situation has improved this winter but central and west central counties are still experiencing abnormally dry to severe drought conditions. The drought has taken its toll on trees in the region and we expect wood boring beetles (e.g., bark beetles, two-lined chestnut borer) to be a problem at least through 2013. We've already inspected many stands (pine, balsam, ash, hickory, oak) with beetle killed trees and expect to find many more this year. Please send us the location of any affected stands you find or let us know so we can map the damage. Also, let us know if you have any questions about what to do with infested stands.

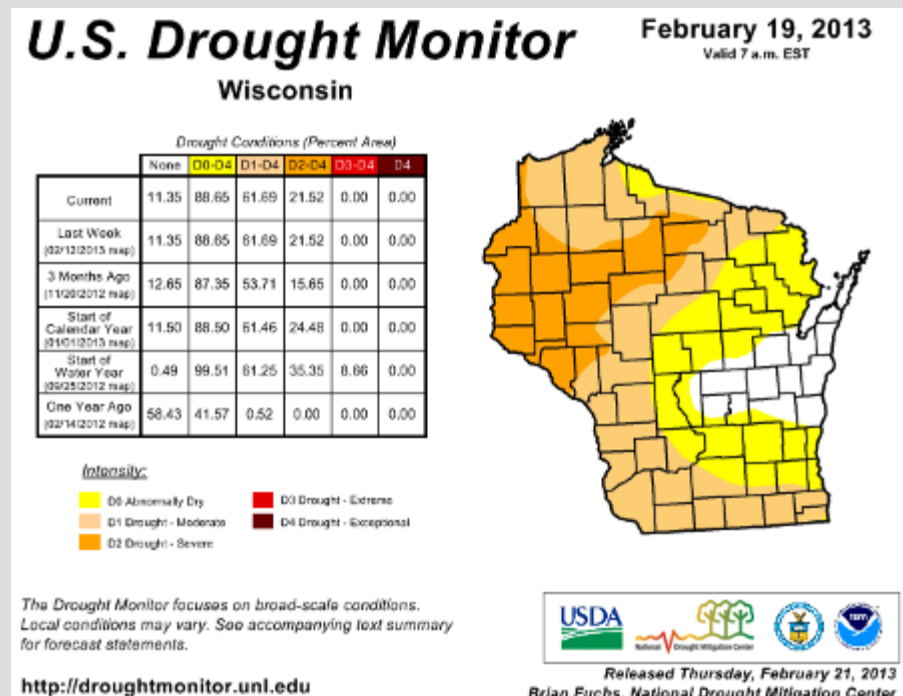


Figure 3. Drought conditions in Wisconsin as of February 19th, 2013. Figure from <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

Forest Health 2012 Annual Report

Check it out at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/documents/AnnualReport2012.pdf>

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.