

# West Central WI Forest Health Report

May 2013

## Topics covered this month:

### Insects

[Gypsy moth](#)  
[Eastern tent caterpillar](#)  
[Emerald ash borer](#)  
[EAB and WTB/TCD trapping](#)

### Abiotic

[Red and orange conifer needles](#)  
[April/May winter storms](#)

### Diseases

[Annosum](#)

## Spring Insect Overview

Spring is finally here and the first wave of insect hatches has occurred: sawflies, Ips bark beetles, Turpentine beetles, Eastern Tent Caterpillars and most recently the first swarm of mosquitoes. Gypsy moth hatch is underway and spraying has already begun in southern WI. Trapping for emerald ash borer has begun as well.

### Gypsy Moth

The first gypsy moth hatch in Wisconsin this year was recorded on May 6 in Rock County. Hatch is complete in central and southern WI and underway in northern WI. DATCP's Slow the Spread program started May 21 and will progress northward as approximately 50% of the caterpillars reach the second instar in a given area. Aerial spraying will probably occur in west central WI the week of May 27<sup>th</sup>. Please report any defoliation or nuisance caterpillars to us. You can find more information about the spray program including interactive spray maps and how to reduce damage at <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov/>.



Photo 1. Early instar gypsy moth caterpillar.

### Eastern Tent Caterpillar

Eastern tent caterpillars (ETC) have hatched and started feeding in southern and central WI. Inspect your cherry, apple and crabapple trees now while the tents are small. Early removal of the young caterpillars will reduce the number of leaves they eat. Keep in mind that ETC are a native insect unlike the invasive gypsy moth (which does not make a tent). Insecticides are rarely necessary. Damage is easily prevented by removing the tents by hand or with a long handled tool such as a rake. Early morning works best when all the caterpillars are in the tent. Kill the caterpillars by putting them in a bucket of soapy water or step on them. Do not burn the tents or cut the branches! Healthy trees with feeding damage will produce a new set of leaves if necessary.



Photos 2, 3. Early instar ETC feeding on black cherry near Wisconsin Rapids.

### Emerald Ash Borer

Check out this new video of how to protect your ash trees from EAB with insecticides <http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/eab/> (bottom of the page). The insecticides available to homeowners at garden and hardware stores must be applied every year. For more information about treating ash trees view <http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/eab/files/2012/12/Is-My-Ash-Tree-Worth-Treating-for-Emerald-Ash-Borer.pdf>.

We also have new guidance on how to comply with NR40 rules related to EAB within quarantined counties. NR40 states you must use reasonable precautions to prevent the spread of EAB. You can learn about the updated NR40 rules and the reasonable precautions by viewing <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/documents/EABPrecautions.pdf> and <http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/articleassets/Recommendations%20to%20reduce%20the%20spread%20of%20EAB.pdf>.

### Emerald Ash Borer and Walnut Twig Beetle 2013 Trapping Plan

Similar to last year, DNR, DATCP and APHIS will set traps to detect EAB across the state. DNR will focus on high risk state parks, APHIS on the uninfested counties in northern WI and DATCP on counties without known infestations in southern and eastern WI. DATCP remains the primary contact for reporting new EAB finds (see contact info at the end of this newsletter). In addition, DNR will continue its walnut twig beetle trapping program in 2013. Walnut twig beetles (WTB) carry the fungus that causes thousand cankers disease (TCD) of walnut and butternut. WTB and TCD have not been found in Wisconsin to date. Funnel traps baited with a WTB lure (male aggregation pheromone) will be hung in walnut trees (or on posts nearby) in many of the same parks in southern and western WI where EAB traps will be located. If you know of any sites with declining or dying walnut please let us know.

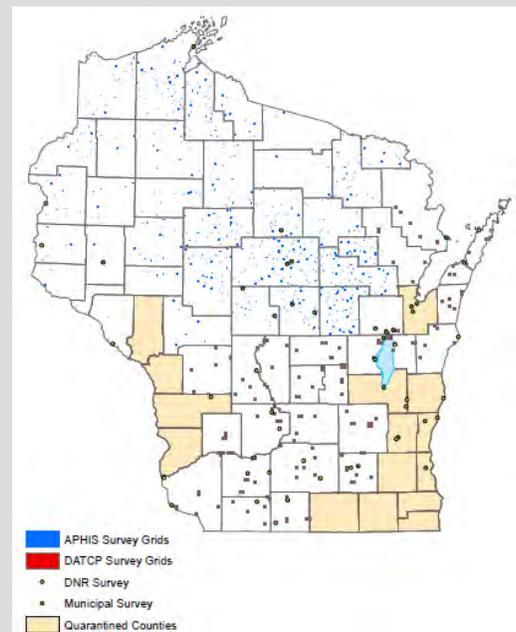


Figure 1. A map of EAB trap locations for 2013.

## Diseases Annosum

The requirement to treat pine stumps with a fungicide to prevent annosum root rot on state lands begin on May 1, 2013. A pdf version of the guide <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/documents/AnnosumTreatmentGuide.pdf> and an interactive online guide <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/foresthealth/RootRotGuide.asp> are available on the forest health website. Treatment is required within 25 miles of a known annosum site. A map of known sites with 25 mile buffers is present in both forms of the guide.

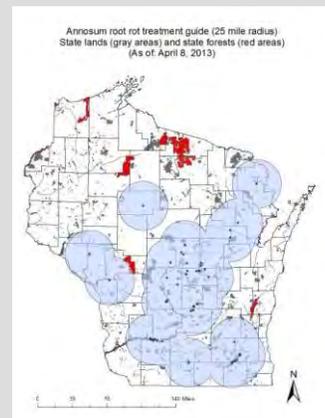


Figure 2. A map of known annosum locations with 25 mile buffers in blue.

### Leaf and Needle Diseases (By Todd Lanigan)

With the wet weather we have had this spring, you can expect to see fungal diseases popping up soon, if you have not seen some already. See the May 2012 report for a list of diseases you may see this spring (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/documents/2012/WCR1205.pdf>). This is by far not a complete list of diseases or tree species that are susceptible to the diseases.

**Insect/Disease General Rule of Thumb** – If the weather is hot and dry, you will have problems with insects. If the weather is cool and wet, you will have problems with diseases. And if we have both hot and dry, and cool and wet weather, then we have fun. ☺

## Abiotic

### Red and Orange Conifer Needles (By Todd Lanigan)

Last year's drought set the trees up for the various problems we are now seeing. I am sure you have noticed the off color conifers that are all over, some are red and some are orange. The color of the foliage gives you a hint as to what the problem could be. There are a lot of red and orange conifers in St. Croix County, especially around Hudson. I have received several inquiries from the Hudson area.

Some of the damage to the pines along the roads/highways is more than likely a combination of salt spray/runoff, and winter burn. These are the trees with the red foliage. Pine bark beetles, Diplodia Shoot Blight, and/or Armillaria Root Rot may also be in those trees as well. Pines with red crowns away from roads are from bark beetle attacks, but there could also be Red Turpentine Beetle, Diplodia Shoot Blight and/or Armillaria Root Rot present in them as well.

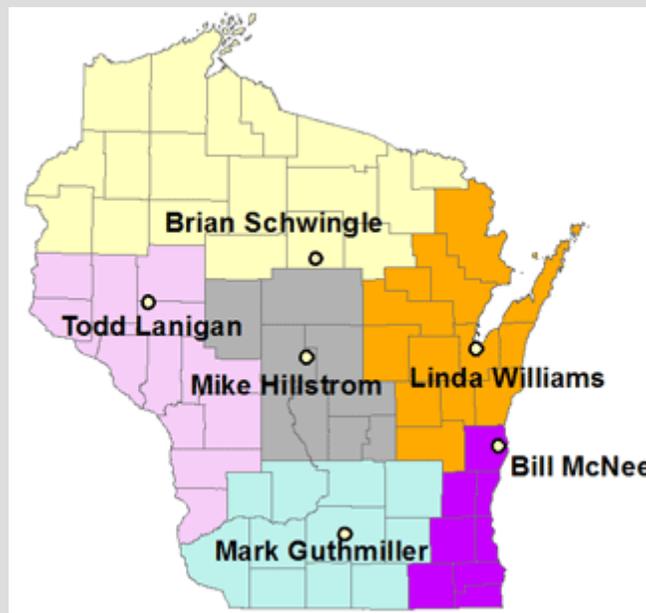
Then there are the conifers with the orange colored foliage. The orange coloration is an indication of drought stress. I did look at a few of these trees and did not see any indications of bark beetles or disease, at least at this time. This could change as the year progresses.

Whether the tree/trees have red or orange foliage, if it has 50% or more the crown affected, more than likely it will die. Some trees may come back, so I would not be in a big hurry to cut any of the trees down, unless they pose a hazard to a structure, vehicle, etc. I have been surprised in the past as to a trees resilience and ability to recover from injuries.

## Late April/Early May Snow Storms (By Todd Lanigan)

Not every county shared in the late snow storms. Crawford County had rain and Vernon County got ice that brought some limbs down. Reports from Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, LaCrosse, Monroe, Pierce, St. Croix, and Trempealeau counties all have some degree of branch and trunk breakage, and some tree tipping. From the reports, jack, red and white pine took the hardest hits, especially open grown white pine for branch breakage. Hardwoods also suffered from branch and trunk breakage. In one area of Trempealeau County the crowns of 30 foot oaks are bent to the ground. There are salvage harvests going on or planned for in Dunn County in jack and red pine stands, and Pierce County in red pine stands.

**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](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.