

# Northeastern Wisconsin Forest Health Update

## Wisconsin DNR – Division of Forestry

April 15, 2014

### Topics covered this month:

#### Insects:

Cynipid wasps in swamp white oak bark  
Gypsy moth  
EAB new finds in Wisconsin  
Tick ID cards  
Insects in the news

#### Diseases:

Oak wilt risk

#### Other:

Invasive species awareness month  
New forest health staff in NW Wisconsin  
NR40 proposed changes, including down-listing EAB  
Pesticide applicator training live session added  
Winter injury

#### Of Historical Interest:

60 years ago - 1954 –

- Maple dieback
- Winter injury

25 years ago - 1989 –

- Ash yellows
- Saratoga spittlebug



Eyed click beetle, sometimes called eyed elater. The large "eyes" are to fool predators into thinking the beetle is larger than it's already impressive size of more than 1 inch!

## Insects

\*information and photos in this document from Linda Williams unless otherwise noted.

**Cynipid wasps in swamp white oak bark** – last month I mentioned samples from Appleton of tiny Cynipid wasps in oak bark and the subsequent woodpecker damage to get at them. Reports have also come in this winter from Oak Creek (Milwaukee County) and from the Twin Cities in MN, so the problem may be more widespread than previously thought. On branches with thicker bark (2mm or greater) it appears that the gall wasps remain within the bark, not penetrating to the

sapwood. But the woodpecker damage that occurs as they attempt to get at the larvae can do significant damage to the tree, especially on smaller branches with thin bark.



Woodpecker damage on swamp white oak branches. Small pits are where cynipid wasp larvae were, before the woodpeckers got them.



Cynipid wasp adults from a swamp white oak branch. Larvae can be seen in the pits in the upper right corner of the pic. Ruler marks are millimeters.

**Gypsy moth** – initial hatch in the state is predicted to be at least 2 weeks behind the average, and for every cold day that we have that date gets pushed back a bit more. Hatch is predicted to begin in the southern parts of the state in the next couple weeks, with hatch not occurring in the northern parts of the state until mid-May.

**EAB new finds in WI** - In the past month emerald ash borer has been identified in the following areas around the state:

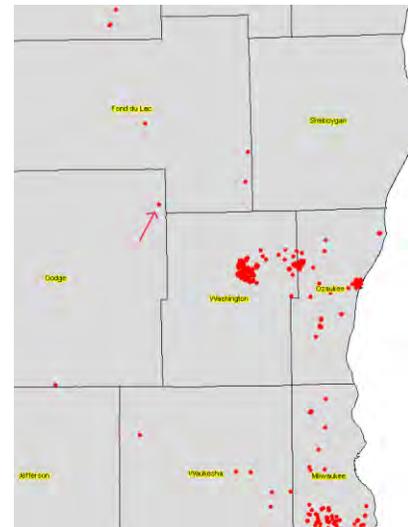
New County Quarantines:

None

New finds in Counties already Quarantined:

- Dodge County - Town of Lomira\*
- La Crosse County - Town of Onalaska
- Ozaukee County - City of Mequon

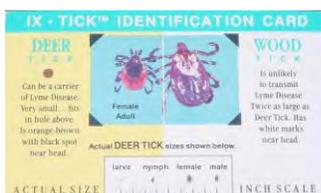
\*The Dodge County find is very near the border of Fond du Lac County, see the arrow on the map at right. This site was identified when a vigilant logger identified EAB in a forest that was being harvested.



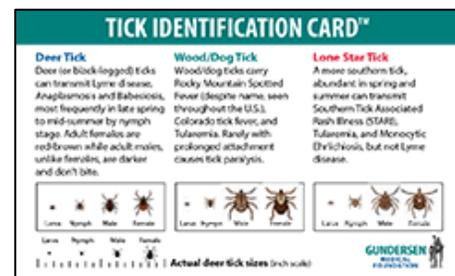
Arrow indicating latest Dodge County EAB infestation.

**Tick ID cards** – tick season is arriving! If you need Tick ID Cards, you can order them (from 50 – 5,000+ cards) from Gunderson Lutheran at

<http://www.gundluth.org/?id=3933&sid=1> which is the card with 3 species of ticks on it (right). If you need just a few let me know and I'll send them to you.



Or, if you prefer the “old” style of card (left) with just deer ticks and wood ticks and the hole punched through it, I have some of those as well, just let me know how many you need.



### Some additional insect articles that might interest you:

- Tobacco hornworm caterpillars use nicotine to repel predators  
<http://news.discovery.com/animals/insects/caterpillar-puffs-out-toxic-nicotine-in-breath-121230.htm>
- Asian longhorned beetle declared eradicated from New Jersey  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/23/nyregion/new-jersey-eradicates-asian-long-horned-beetles-after-11-year-fight.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/23/nyregion/new-jersey-eradicates-asian-long-horned-beetles-after-11-year-fight.html?_r=0)

## Diseases

**Oak wilt risk** – in last month's pest update I stated "winter is hanging on" ... so in this update I'll say that winter is STILL hanging on especially in the north. But in many areas temperatures have reached 50's and 60's which will prompt the beetles that can spread the oak wilt fungus to emerge. To minimize the overland spread of oak do not prune, wound, or harvest oak during the high risk time period which is

- North (white counties at right): April 15 – July 15
- South (grey counties at right): April 1 – July 15



## Other/Misc.

**Invasive species awareness month** - The U.S. Department of Agriculture has declared April to be Invasive Plant Pest and Disease Awareness Month and is using the occasion to update its [Hungry Pests](#) campaign online to engage the public in the battle. Here are five ways you can help:

- **Buy local, burn local** Insects and their eggs can hide in firewood. So can fungi and micro-organisms that cause disease. Don't bring these problems to new places by hauling firewood from home to a campground, or back home from a campground.
- **Plant carefully** Plants can carry insects or diseases in potting soil or on the roots, leaves or stems. Buy your plants from reputable sources. DATCP licenses and inspects nursery growers and dealers that sell at least \$250 worth of plants a year. You can find up-to-date lists of these businesses at [datcp.wi.gov/plants](http://datcp.wi.gov/plants) under "nursery stock."
- **Be careful with edible gifts and souvenirs** Don't bring, take or mail fresh fruits, vegetables, or plants into or out of Wisconsin unless they've been inspected. When you return from international travel, don't bring any fresh foods, and declare all food and agricultural items to customs officials.

Watch the 1-minute video of the new “Invasive Species” character that has EAB eyebrows, Asian longhorned beetle cheeks, and a gypsy moth for a nose. In the video he claims “I just want to sample the local fare, just a taste, really” and then goes on to say “did you know I’m completely vegetarian, yah, really healthy” HA! Watch it for yourself at <http://www.hungrypests.com/press-room/psa.php>



**New forest health staff in NW Wisconsin** – we’ve hired a replacement for the Forest Health position located in Spooner; a vacancy created when Shane Weber retired at the end of 2011. Paul Cigan will be starting this month, covering the northwestern part of the state (Polk, Barron, Rusk, Burnett, Washburn, Sawyer, Douglas, Bayfield and Ashland counties). Paul grew up in Chippewa Falls and has a B.S. in Forestry from UW-Stevens Point. He recently finished an M.S. at the University of Alberta in Forest Biology & Management where he studied the cumulative effects of forest ecosystem disturbances, mainly focusing on mountain pine beetle.



Paul Cigan.

**NR40 proposed changes, including down-listing EAB** – this topic generated a lot of media interest. The short version of what it means to change EAB from “Prohibited” to “Restricted” is that those who currently possess EAB would no longer be required to control it, or be fined simply for possessing it. Restricted species in NR40 are still illegal to transport, transfer, or introduce without a permit. As EAB continues to spread and continues to be detected in new areas around the state (currently, 21 counties are quarantined) it was recognized that control options have been futile against EAB, so it’s no longer realistic to require control. We now encourage management, recognizing that EAB cannot be eradicated.

Efforts to reduce impacts and limit the spread (quarantines, firewood restrictions, etc.) of EAB are still important. Slowing the spread of EAB gives landowners more time to be proactive and can extend management over time. The “Restricted” classification in NR40 allows DNR to work with others to continue to slow the spread while remaining reasonable in our expectations. For more info on reasonable precautions to limit the spread of EAB within a quarantine area check out <http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/articleassets/EAB%20Best%20Management%20Practices-BMP%20recommendations.pdf>

There are many other proposed changes to the Invasive Species Rule, NR40, including changing the regulatory status of 4 species, delisting 2 species, adding 50 new prohibited species, and 32 new restricted species. More info at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/classification.html> or at public hearings:

- Madison - Tuesday, June 17, 4:00pm, GEF2, Room G09; Web access will be provided.
- Green Bay - Wednesday, June 18, 4:00pm, NER Office, Lake Michigan Room

**Pesticide Applicator Training live session added** – The Pesticide Applicator Training Program (PAT) recently added another in-person session for Forestry on April 30, 2014, in Stevens Point. It’s a one day training. The class will review materials in the training manual, and there will be a certificate test at the end. Register online, by April 27, at [https://patstore.wisc.edu/secure/browse\\_cat.asp?category\\_id=9](https://patstore.wisc.edu/secure/browse_cat.asp?category_id=9) The registration fee for the in-person training class is \$25, and the manual is \$45. You can find more information about the training at <http://ipcm.wisc.edu/pat/2-april-30-stevens-point/>

You should **read the manual prior to the session** to get the most out of the training (and pass the test). Purchase the manual as soon as possible so you will have time to study before the training on 4/30. You can purchase either a print version (\$45) or an electronic version (\$40) online at [https://patstore.wisc.edu/secure/browse\\_cat.asp?category\\_id=2](https://patstore.wisc.edu/secure/browse_cat.asp?category_id=2). The cost of the manual includes the cost to take a test, so you won't need to pay extra for taking a test.

**Winter injury** – I am noticing significant amounts of winter desiccation / winter burn on conifers in most counties in northeastern Wisconsin. A number of conifer species are affected following this long winter, including white pine, hemlock, and cedar. Moisture loss is the culprit. Dry air, windy days, and sunny days during the winter can cause conifer needles to lose moisture.



Winter burn affected the needles but not the buds, which are expanding normally. Photo by Bill Ruff.

This moisture cannot be replenished in the needles until the ground thaws and water starts moving up the tree from the roots. Consequently, some needles may become so desiccated that they are beyond the point of recovery and simply die. A telltale sign that brown needles are due to winter desiccation is if you can see where the snowline was, with

branches below snowline being green, and anything that wasn't protected by snow showing browning. Generally the buds are not affected, and new growth will emerge as normal in the spring. If the tree was in the path of salt-spray from nearby roads it will have been more severely affected, buds may be affected, and portions may not recover well.



Winter desiccation on upper branches. Lower green branches were protected by snow. Photo by Bill Ruff.

## Of Historical Interest

**60 years ago, in 1954 –**

- **Maple dieback** – a wilt which has the symptoms of Verticillium wilt caused increased mortality southeast of Wausau. New areas of infestation ranging from 2 to 20 acres have been found north of Wausau.
- **Winter injury** – damage was heavy to offsite white pine and spruces in the central area. In some of these stands white pine blister rust was also present and an appraisal was difficult without a detailed examination of the area.

25 years ago, in 1989 –

- **Ash Yellows** – Mycoplasma Like Organism (MLO). No new counties reported ash yellows in 1989. The two known locations of ash yellows in Wisconsin are shown in Figure 2. A survey is planned for 1990 to determine whether or not the mycoplasma like organism is present in declining green and white ash in Wisconsin's forests.
- **Saratoga spittlebug** – *Aphrophora saratogensis* (Fitch). A Vilas County population that was treated with malathion in 1988 remained below damaging levels in 1989. No damage was reported anywhere in Wisconsin.

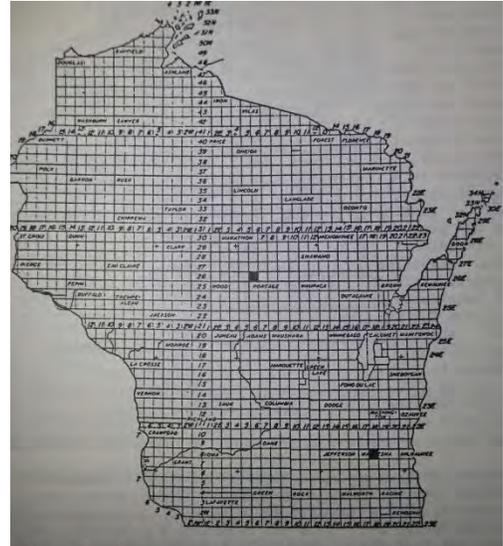


Figure 2. Known township locations of Ash Yellows in Wisconsin-1989.

Known ash yellows locations as of 1989.

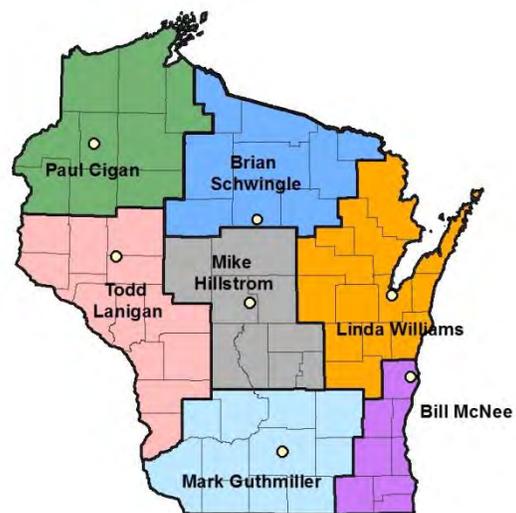
# Contact Us

**Forest Health Staff** - contact info for each Forest Health Specialist can be found our webpage at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/staff.html>

Forest Health Protection Regional Staff

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://www.gypsymoth.wi.gov/>



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

**Note: This pest update covers forest health issues occurring in Northeastern Wisconsin. This informal newsletter is created to provide up-to-date information to foresters, landowners, and others on forest health issues. If you have insect or disease issues to report in areas other than northeastern Wisconsin please report them to your local extension agent, state entomologist or pathologist, or area forest pest specialist.**

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.