

# *Northeastern Wisconsin Forest Health Update*

*Wisconsin DNR – Division of Forestry*

*October 24, 2014*

## Topics covered this month:

### **Insects:**

Box elder bug, lady bugs, wasps  
Deer ticks  
EAB informational meetings  
    Oneida Co EAB meetings for forestry professionals and for the public  
EAB locations  
EAB new finds in WI  
EAB new host, white fringe tree  
EAB additional reading  
Insect masks for Halloween

### **Diseases:**

Ash yellows  
Botryosphaeria canker  
Bur oak blight  
Oak wilt maps

### **Other:**

Invasive plants contacts

### **Of Historical Interest:**

25 years ago - 1989

- Pales weevil
- Pear thrips

60 years ago - 1954

- Direct control operations

## Insects

**Box elder bugs, ladybugs, and wasps** – it's that time of year, when cool nights and warm sunny days prompt some insects to congregate. This year I have not had any reports of major infestations, just your average year so far for box elder bugs, ladybugs, and wasps. If you're having problems with them invading your house you could consider spraying the exterior to keep them out, although it may be a bit late for it to do much good this year. When you get calls about ladybugs or box elder bugs inside the home you can recommend vacuuming the critters up (and disposing of the bag), since squishing them will stain whatever they are squished on.



Multicolored Asian ladybeetles.

**Deer ticks** – deer ticks are out! Just because the weather is cooling down and other insects are wrapping up their season, don't assume that the ticks aren't out anymore. Deer ticks have a 2-year life cycle, so in the fall of the year there are both adults and nymphs present. They can be active any time that the temps are above freezing, including some winter warm-ups.

UWMadison has a webpage with more info on the ticks of Wisconsin  
<http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/wisconsin-ticks/wisconsin-ticks/>

### **EAB information meetings –**

**\*Oneida Co EAB informational meeting for professionals** – an EAB informational meeting for forest industry and professionals will be held November 10, 2014, from 1-4pm, at Nicolet College Theater, 5364 College Dr., Rhinelander, WI. Speakers from Oneida County Forestry, WI DNR, WI DATCP, and USDA APHIS will be presenting and available to answer questions.

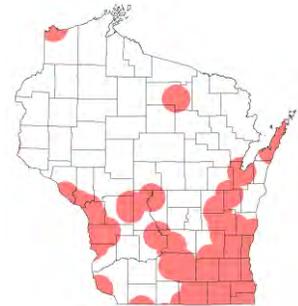
**\*Oneida Co EAB informational meeting for the general public** – a meeting is also being planned for the public to be able to learn about EAB and ask their questions. The date that's been identified is November 17, early evening, but a location is still being nailed down.



EAB exit holes are D-shaped.

**EAB locations** - the map at right shows the 15-mile radius around all known infestations of emerald ash borer in Wisconsin. The Emerald Ash Borer and Forest Management document

[https://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/articleassets/Management\\_Guidelines\\_for\\_Wisconsin\\_Forests.pdf](https://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/articleassets/Management_Guidelines_for_Wisconsin_Forests.pdf) (revised May 2014), states that salvage and pre-salvage harvests are recommended within an EAB quarantined county and for all stands within 15 miles of a known infestation, even if currently located outside of a quarantined county. Ash trees should be considered high risk for EAB mortality within the next harvest cycle.



Map above showing 15-mile radius around all known EAB infestations. Map below shows quarantined counties.

**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:

- Oneida County – found in the city of Rhinelander

#### New finds in Counties already Quarantined:

- none



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection  
Map Updated 10/7/2014



**EAB new host, white fringe tree** – we don't have white fringe tree (*Chionantus virginicus*) in Wisconsin, but I still wanted to share this info. EAB adults and larvae have been recovered from white fringe trees in Ohio. White fringe tree is in the olive family (Oleaceae), which also includes Fraxinus. Other species in the olive family (lilac and privet) were previously shown to not be suitable hosts for EAB. More research is being done to determine how successful EAB can be when developing in white fringe tree.

### EAB additional reading:

- Electrified EAB decoy tempts male EAB to land and mate ... and get electrocuted  
[http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/09/140915153842.htm?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+invasivenews+%28NISIC+Invasive+Species+News%29](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/09/140915153842.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+invasivenews+%28NISIC+Invasive+Species+News%29)
- Dendrochronology research at Michigan State shows EAB was in US many years before it was identified <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/05/140507132746.htm>
- Submerging black ash logs to prevent EAB emergence  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/afe.12057/abstract>
- Pennsylvania DCNR EAB management plan developed  
[http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr\\_20029768.pdf](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_20029768.pdf)

**Insect masks for Halloween** – your kids don't have costumes yet? Or maybe you need something special for that office party. In case you've ever wanted to be a gypsy moth, Asian longhorned beetle, EAB, or walnut twig beetle (who hasn't) check out the insects masks on DontMoveFirewood.org Just print out, color, cut, and wear [http://www.dontmovefirewood.org/blog/halloween-bug-mask-collection.html?utm\\_source=FOCINewsletter&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_content=DMFCampaign-masks&utm\\_campaign=FOCISeptember2014](http://www.dontmovefirewood.org/blog/halloween-bug-mask-collection.html?utm_source=FOCINewsletter&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=DMFCampaign-masks&utm_campaign=FOCISeptember2014) If your kids (or you) do this, send me a pic!

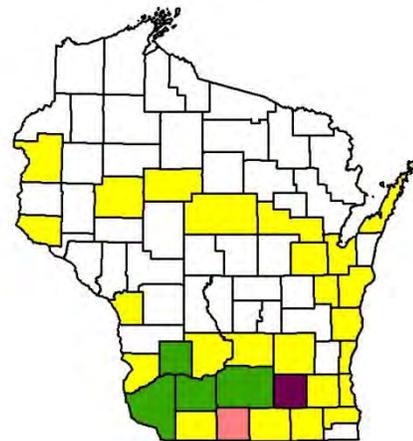
## Diseases

**Ash yellows** – ash yellows has been identified for the first time in Outagamie County. Ash yellows is a disease that causes slow growth, branch dieback, and eventual mortality of ash. It is caused by a special type of bacteria - a bacterium without cell walls, called a phytoplasma. There is no known way to prevent or cure ash yellows. It is believed that this disease could kill a tree by itself or act with other stress causing agents, such as drought, root damage, and insect defoliation, to eventually kill a tree. Ash yellows has been reported only in North America. The disease is mainly observed in the northeastern and mid-western states and southern most portion of Canada. In Wisconsin, ash yellows is currently found in 29 counties. Surveys continue but ash yellows may be more widespread and causing more damage than previously believed.

There are a number of signs to watch for to determine if your trees are affected by

### County Distribution of Phytoplasma in WI (October 2014)

Note: Phytoplasma was confirmed in Outagamie and Polk counties in 2014



- Phytoplasma confirmed on ash and black walnut
- Phytoplasma confirmed/suspected based on visual observations on ash
- Phytoplasma confirmed on ash and butternut
- Phytoplasma confirmed on walnut

Counties colored green, yellow, and purple have confirmed ash yellows.

ash yellows. Leaves of infected trees may be smaller in size, and light green. Vertical cracks and cankers may appear on the trunk near the base. Infected trees often develop clusters of upright shoots, called a witches broom, on the trunk. The presence of a witches broom has been the key to confirming ash yellows in the field.

For more info: [http://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/howtos/ht\\_ash/ash\\_yell.pdf](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/howtos/ht_ash/ash_yell.pdf) or <http://hort.uwex.edu/articles/ash-yellows> The forest service factsheet recommends that trees with greater than 50% crown dieback be removed within 5 years and other affected ash during subsequent harvests.

**Botryosphaeria canker on oak** – earlier this summer I collected samples from an oak in Vilas County that had lots of branch flagging. Scattered throughout the crown the outer 12-18 inches of the branches were recently dead. There were some Kermes scale present, but not on all twigs. What was present on all twigs were some sunken cankers. Samples were cultured, and finally, after some long coaxing, fruiting bodies of *Botryosphaeria canker* (*Botryosphaeria quercuum*) were observed.

*Botryosphaeria* is a fungal disease that usually just kills the outer 4-8 inches of the tips of twigs but some trees may have more severe damage. Typically, black fruiting bodies will erupt through the bark of killed twigs. I'd never seen these sunken cankers like this before so the identification of *Botryosphaeria* surprised me. This disease will also attack oak seedlings, killing the entire top of the tree. Several years of infection can cause the tree to look stunted and tufted as the terminal buds and branches are killed by the disease. This disease is often cyclical and will cause problems for a year or two and then disappear for a while. Dead twigs can be pruned off if desired although usually little or no control is required or practical.



Branch tips throughout the tree were being killed by botryosphaeria canker.



Sunken cankers (branch protrudes from center of canker) were found on all recently dead branches.

**Bur oak blight** - since it was first identified in Wisconsin in 2010, this disease has now been identified in 21 counties. Marquette County is the latest county to be added. This relatively new disease has not been confirmed in northeastern Wisconsin yet, but it doesn't hurt to keep your eyes open. Since the 1990s, bur oak blight (BOB) has been reported in Midwestern States including Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Wisconsin. The disease is caused by the fungus *Tubakia iowensis* and is considered a blight disease, not a leaf disease. In a severe case, all the leaves on a tree will die late in the season.

Did you know there are different types of bur oak? The type



with the smaller acorns (*Quercus macrocarpa* var. *oliviformis*) is susceptible to BOB while the type with the larger acorns (*Quercus macrocarpa* var. *macrocarpa*) and the type found in the great plains area (*Quercus macrocarpa* var. *depressa*) do not seem to be susceptible to BOB. Swamp white oak has developed symptoms when surrounded by heavily infected bur oak.

For more information about BOB check out the forest service pest alert at [http://na.fs.fed.us/pubs/palerts/bur\\_oak\\_blight/bob\\_print.pdf](http://na.fs.fed.us/pubs/palerts/bur_oak_blight/bob_print.pdf)

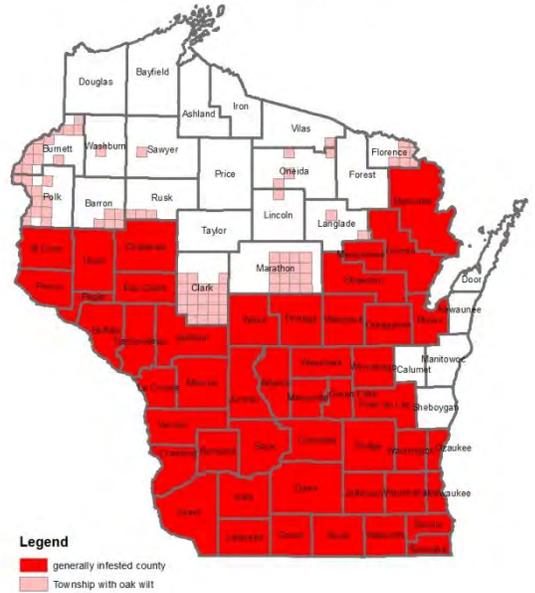
**Oak wilt in maps** – in my September pest update I reported that oak wilt had been found in Washburn County for the first time, as well as an additional find in Oneida County (Cassian Twp). Here are the updated oak wilt maps showing these finds. In the map with blue color, the counties shaded in blue have confirmed oak wilt. In the map with red colors, the dark red counties are considered generally infested, and oak wilt is found throughout the county, while the lesser infested counties have townships shaded in pink where oak wilt has been identified.



Oak wilt has been confirmed in counties shaded in blue.

In the map with blue color, the counties shaded in blue have confirmed oak wilt. In the map with red colors, the dark red counties are considered generally infested, and oak wilt is found throughout the county, while the lesser infested counties have townships shaded in pink where oak wilt has been identified.

Distribution of oak wilt in Wisconsin (as of Oct 14, 2014)



## Other/Misc.

**Invasive plants contacts** – Since Tom Boos has left the DNR, and the Forest Invasive Plants Coordinator position is vacant for the time being, below is a list of folks to contact if you have questions about:

- WMA-PFGP Program - contact Mike Putnam, [Michael.Putnam@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Michael.Putnam@wisconsin.gov), 608-266-7596
- NR40 and Pesticides – contact Kelly Kearns, [Kelly.Kearns@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Kelly.Kearns@wisconsin.gov), 608-267-5066
- Outreach – contact [Bernadette.Williams@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Bernadette.Williams@wisconsin.gov), 608-266-0624
- Other – contact Becky Gray, [Rebecca.Gray@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Gray@wisconsin.gov), 608-275-3273

## Of Historical Interest

### 25 years ago, in 1989 –

- **Pales Weevil** – *Hylobius pales* (Herbst) Increased flagging of white pine twigs was noted over wide areas of southern Wisconsin. Very heavy damage to 6-foot white pine Christmas trees occurred in Columbia County where some trees had been harvested during the previous two years.
- **Pear Thrips** – *Taeniothrips inconsequens* (Uzel) The first Wisconsin report of this pest of maple was made by Dr. Ken Raffa of University of Wisconsin, Department of Entomology. The identification was confirmed by S. Nakahara, USDA, Beltsville, Maryland. The pear thrips were discovered in basswood foliage samples that were collected from a basswood thrips impact study plot in Grant County. There were scattered sugar maples in the plot.

### 60 years ago, in 1954 –

- **Direct Control Operations** – Aerial spraying was done on an experimental basis on 135 acres in Marinette County re control of the pine tortoise scale (*Toumeyella* sp.). This was a cooperative undertaking with the University of Wisconsin, Marinette County and the Department all taking part. In addition, Marinette County sprayed 1,053 acres in the same area for control of the scale. Spraying by hand for control of the red-headed pine sawfly (*Neodiprion lecontei*) was done on 20 acres in Oneida County and 20 acres in Chippewa County. Aerial and ground spraying was also done by private landowners in Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas and Washburn Counties to control the forest tent caterpillar (*Malacosoma disstria*) on and adjacent to their property.

## Contact Us

**Forest Health Staff** - contact info for each Forest Health Specialist can be found our webpage at

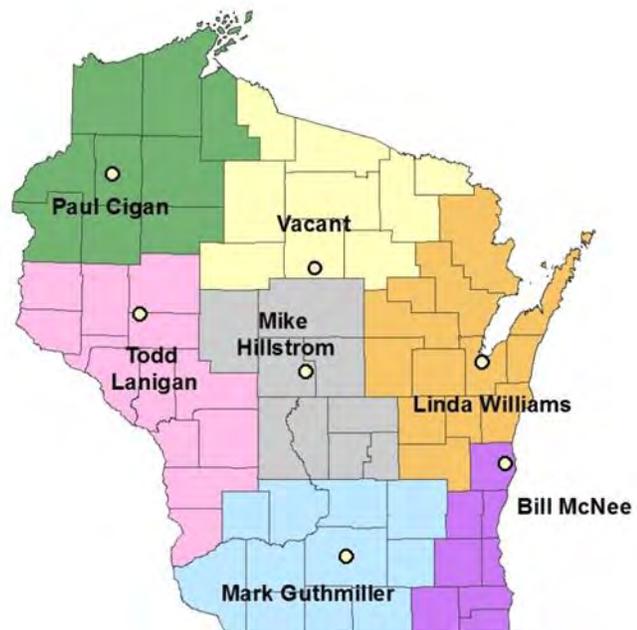
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/staff.html>

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 [dnrfrgypsymoth@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dnrfrgypsymoth@wisconsin.gov)

visit the website <http://www.gypsymoth.wi.gov/>

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**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.