

Northern Wisconsin's Forest Insect & Disease Newsletter

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry

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Schwingle's Leaving

As many of you know, May 29 is my last day working for the Wisconsin DNR. I'm headed across our western border to be a forest health specialist for the Minnesota DNR. I won't explain why because it's complicated, but my departure is not because I haven't (note the double negative) thoroughly enjoyed my job and not because the Wisconsin DNR treated me poorly. In fact, the Wisconsin DNR has treated me very well.

I thank you for your interest in forest health, the kudos you've given me, and your camaraderie. I can't thank the Wisconsin DNR enough for this job I've had since 2007. For those of you that I've worked with on a regular basis, I'll miss you and I hope our paths cross again in the future.

For the countless numbers of you that have given me a hard time about choosing to work in purple country,



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note that my blood runs a very consistent and solid green and gold. I'm pretty sure being a Packers fan has already reduced my total life expectancy due to the stress load I experience on Sundays and the following Monday. You know what though.....it's worth it.

Forest Health Contacts for North-Central Wisconsin

In light of the topic in the previous article, forest health questions and requests for tree problem investigations will be altered for north-central Wisconsin as follows:

- Lincoln and Langlade: Mike Hillstrom, 715-421-7825, michael.hillstrom@wisconsin.gov
- Taylor and Price: Todd Lanigan, 715-839-1632, todd.lanigan@wisconsin.gov
- Iron: Paul Cigan, 715 416-4920, paul.cigan@wisconsin.gov
- Oneida, Vilas, Forest, Florence: Linda Williams, 920-662-5172, linda.williams@wisconsin.gov

Please do not hesitate to contact these individuals for help or to alert them of significant forest health phenomena.

For those of you who are not DNR Forestry employees, if you want to stay up-to-date on forest health issues, **please contact the appropriate forest health regional specialist and request they put you on their newsletter email distribution list.** Alternatively, you always can visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/Publications.html> and select which forest health newsletter you want to review.

Eastern Larch Beetle Spread Rate in Two Lincoln County Stands

Eastern larch beetles look just dandy right now, lazing around under the bark. A couple sites I visited this past month suggest the outbreak will continue in many areas of Wisconsin. The darkest prediction my retired counterpart ever made was about the eastern larch beetle, and nothing to date has happened to suggest he was wrong. Despite this gloom-and-doom prediction, eastern larch beetles can't infest tamarack regeneration, so please promote this species on appropriate sites.

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Figures 1 & 2: Tamarack stands in Lincoln County that have been infested by the eastern larch beetle. Orange polygons delineate the extent of mortality in May 2013. Red polygons show the extent of mortality one year later.

Expect Larch Casebearer Defoliation Again

Last year there was noticeable defoliation of tamaracks in early June around Rhinelander. Expect the same thing this year in a pretty large area around Rhinelander. A couple spots between Eagle River and Rhinelander, and Gleason and Rhinelander, had the non-native larch casebearers present on every shoot examined.



Figure 3: The brown object (white arrow) is the case of a feeding larch casebearer. If you pull on such a case, a VERY angry caterpillar will pop its head out and yell at you; then you'll feel bad.

Patchy Gypsy Moth Defoliation Expected in Ashland County

—by Paul Cigan, May 2014

Brian and I recently surveyed the density of gypsy moth egg masses in one young aspen stand in Ashland Co. (9.5 mi south of Ashland along Hwy 13). This small stand sustained heavy gypsy moth (GM) defoliation in 2013. We observed an abundance of GM egg masses on the boles of aspens and tag alders, and I collected 10 egg masses from above and below the former snowline to monitor hatch (there were a lot of egg masses that would have been buried and thermally buffered by the snow). Many of the collected egg masses—left in my office for 4 days—produced

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an abundance of lively caterpillars, suggesting moderate to high survival rates in this stand and noticeable defoliation in 2014.

Fortunately, we found no egg masses in two neighboring mature aspen stands, indicating patchiness in the distribution of egg masses among stands.

I will track defoliation in this area this summer, and I would appreciate hearing from you with any other defoliation reports!



Figure 4: Recently hatched gypsy moth larvae collected from a young aspen stand with heavy 2013 defoliation in northwestern Ashland County, WI. Photo by Paul Cigan, Wisconsin DNR.

Wisconsin DNR State Property Firewood Rule

—by Mark Guthmiller, May 2014

DNR is expecting the more restrictive “10 mile rule” for firewood importation into state parks and forests to go into effect in June. More information can be found [online](#). Until the anticipated change goes into effect, if you are bringing non-DATCP-certified wood to a state property, it must be all of the following:

1. from within Wisconsin
2. from within 25 miles of the state property (this law is expected to change to 10 miles in June 2014), and
3. from outside of a quarantined area, unless the property is also within a quarantine.

Emerald Ash Borer Information

—by Linda Williams, May 2014

Some EAB trapping will be done in Wisconsin once again this year. USDA APHIS and DATCP will be hanging the purple triangular traps in trees while the DNR will be using double-decker traps at some of the state parks around the state.

In quarantine areas, or areas where folks want to start treating their ash trees to prevent EAB attack, the UW-Extension insecticide documents have been updated:

- [Homeowner EAB insecticide document](#)
- [Professional EAB insecticide document](#)

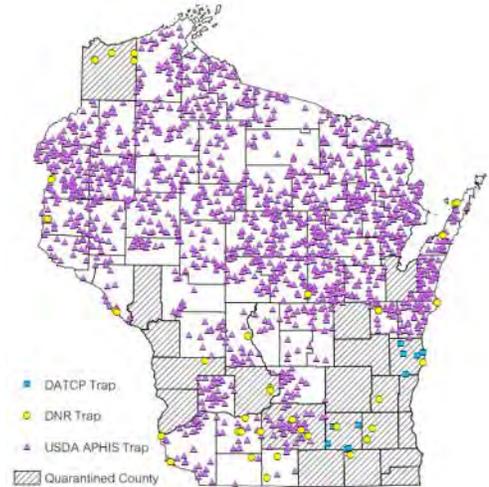


Figure 5: Emerald Ash Borer trapping locations for 2014.

Gypsy Moth Treatments by Wisconsin's DATCP

—by Mark Guthmiller, May 2014

Wisconsin's Dept. of Ag., Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) expects to start treatments against gypsy moth in southwest Wisconsin as soon as next week [week of May 18] depending on development and weather. This year's Slow-the-Spread treatments (bacterial insecticide, viral insecticide or mating disruption) are planned in the following 18 counties: **Barron**, **Bayfield**, Chippewa, Crawford, **Douglas**, Dunn, Eau Claire, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jackson, La Crosse, Lafayette, **Polk**, Richland, **Rusk**, **Sawyer** and Trempealeau. To view the treatment locations, use this interactive mapping [website](#). Individuals can sign up for spray updates or find additional information at gypsymoth.wi.gov.

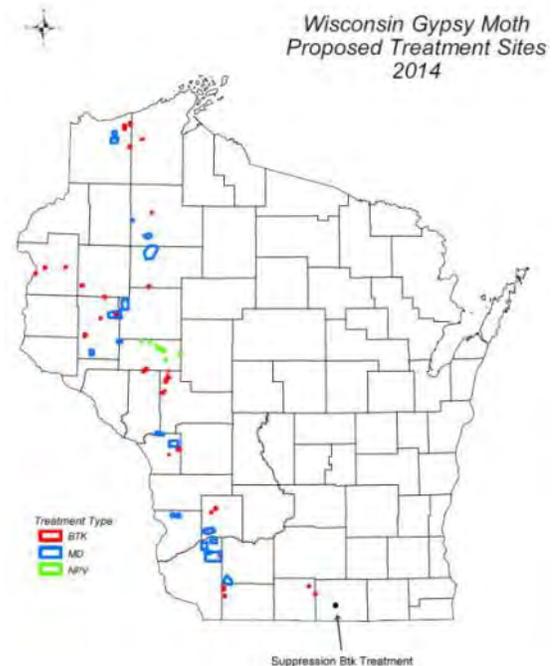


Figure 6: Map of 2014 proposed Slow-the-Spread and Suppression treatment sites.

The Rot Room

Welcome to the Rot Room. You came here to keep your white, brown, and canker rots straight. I hope you learned something. Brown rot is more structurally unstable than white rot. Canker rotters cannot be compartmentalized well, so they are classified by the DNR as “high risk.”

Cerrena unicolor is a very familiar white rotter. Its common name is the “mossy maze polypore,” which is appropriate since it has maze-like pores (see photo at right) and its fuzzy top is oftentimes green (i.e. like moss) due to algae that cohabitate with the fungus. I have never seen mossy maze conks just growing solo: they are a social fruiter (see all the conks growing on the rotten maple stump’s roots in the below picture).



It can be a canker rotter (definitely on maples and birches), so if you see a living tree loaded with overlapping mossy maze conks, slay it with some orange paint or leave it for the critters; definitely do not pitch your tent underneath it. If you’re interested in learning more, including it’s notable relationship with Tremex woodwasps, go [here](#).



Forest Health Web and Phone Resources

- Insects
 - [Emerald Ash Borer](#)
 - * EAB Hotline—1-800-462-2803
 - [Gypsy Moth](#)
 - * Gypsy Moth Hotline—1-800-642-MOTH
 - Tracking Forest Insect Pest Damage: [Forest Health Portal](#)
- Diseases
 - [Annosum](#) Root Rot (Heterobasidion Root Disease)
 - [Oak Wilt](#)
 - Tracking Forest Disease Damage: [Forest Health Portal](#)
- Plants
 - [Timing of Herbicide](#) Applications for Planted Trees
 - Invasive Plant [Control Database](#)
- Sick Tree Diagnostic Keys:
 - U. of Minnesota Extension—[What's Wrong With My Plant?](#)
 - U. of Wisconsin Extension [Green Industry Website](#)

Goodbye Everyone! Thanks for reading!
-Brian Schwingle

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Note: This pest report was an informal newsletter and covered forest health issues in the northern 18 counties of Wisconsin. The purpose of this newsletter was to provide forest owners and managers in Northern Wisconsin with regional up-to-date forest health information. This is the last issue of this newsletter, so for non-DNR subscribers, I encourage you to sign up for my counterparts' newsletters which will cover your area of interest (see the 2nd article). Previous issues of this newsletter and regional forest health updates from other Wisconsin regions are available at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/Publications.html> .