

Southern Region Forest Health Update

Wisconsin DNR, Forest Health Protection Unit

May 16, 2014 Vol. 11 No. 3

Topics in this update

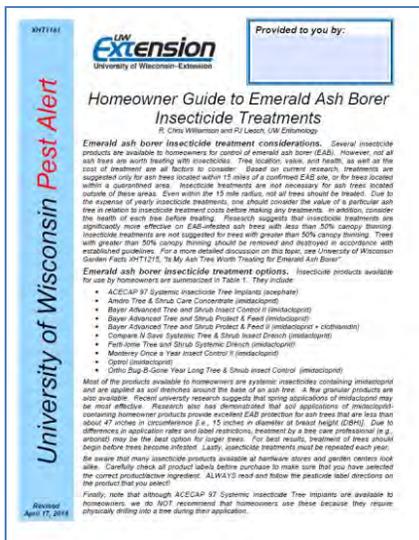
- Emerald Ash Borer
- Gypsy Moth
- Winter Browning of Conifers
- Miscellaneous Topics and Observations

Articles in this newsletter were written by Mark Guthmiller, Regional Forest Health Specialist, unless otherwise noted.

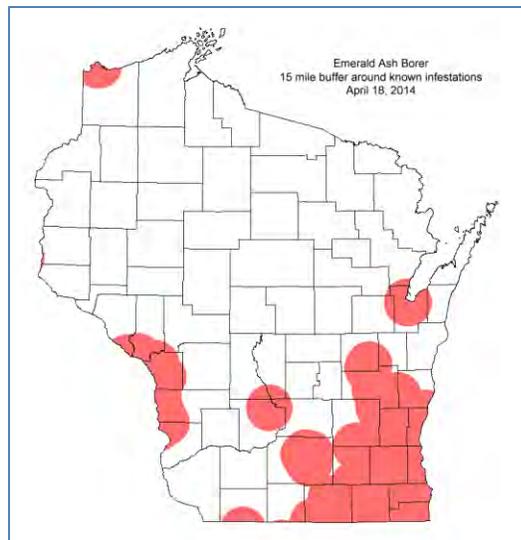
Emerald Ash Borer– Bill McNee

Treatment Information

Property owners who are considering treating their ash trees with insecticide should apply them during the spring. UW Extension has recently revised its two guides to EAB insecticide treatments, for both homeowners and professional pesticide applicators, and they can be downloaded at: <http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/eab/>. The current recommendation is to consider treating high-value trees with insecticide if within 15 miles of a known EAB infestation. A list of known detections can be found on the Wisconsin EAB webpage, www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov. This webpage also has a number of landowner and professional guides for insecticide treatments, including when to apply them. It may be appropriate to delay treatments by a week or two due to the cold spring weather that we have been having.



Sample UW Extension EAB insecticide brochure.



Map of 15 mile buffer zone around known EAB infestations, as of May 2014.

Recent EAB Detections

Since the last Southern District pest update in March there have been several new EAB detections in the Southern District:

- Dodge County – Town of Lomira
- Jefferson County – Town of Cold Spring
- Ozaukee County – Village of Mequon
- Vernon County – Town of Bergen
- Washington County – Town of Jackson

A complete list of community detections can be found online at:

<http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/articleassets/ConfirmedEABfindsInWisconsin.pdf>.

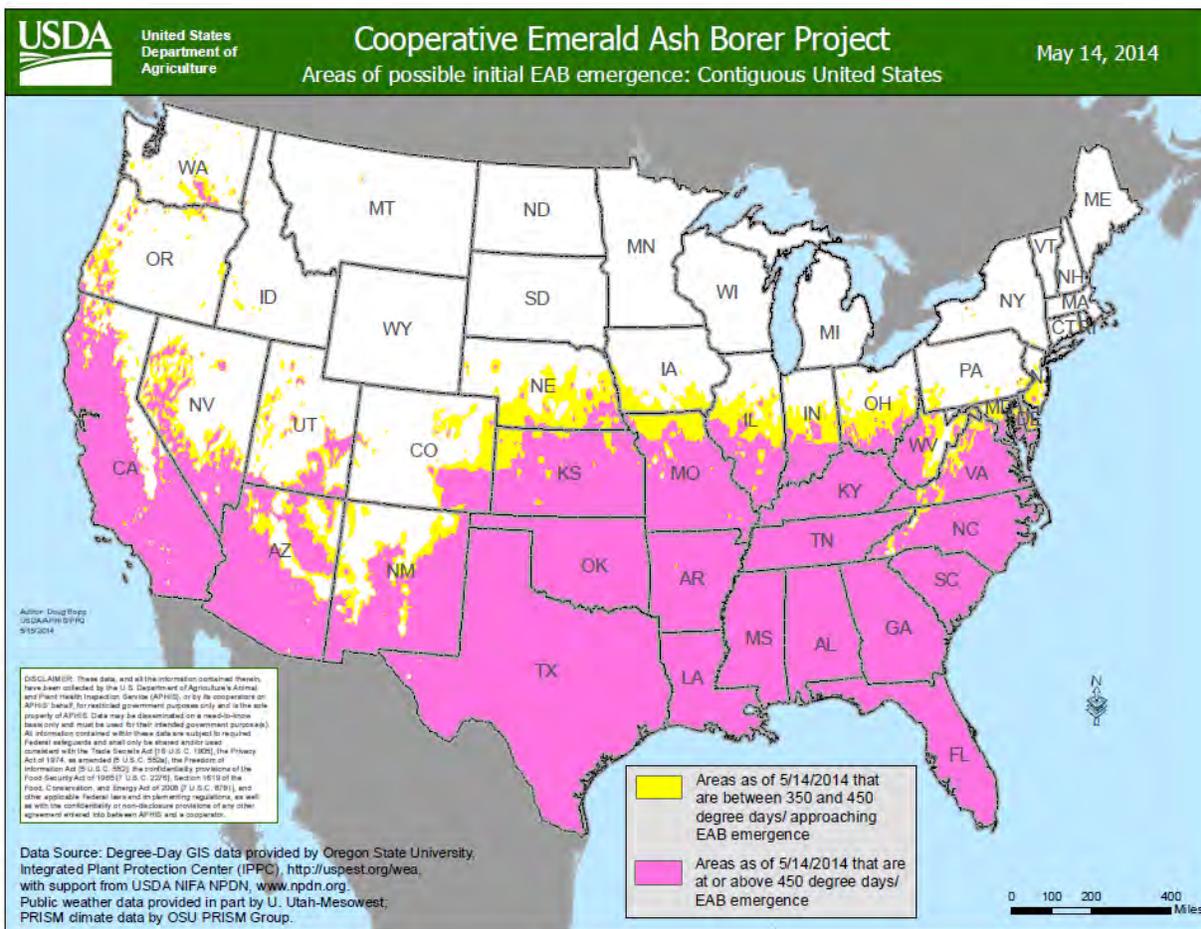


Jefferson County first EAB confirmation at Princess Point State Wildlife in the town of Cold Spring. Left: Woodpecker flecking on an ash in the flooded river area. Right: Peeled tree revealing extensive galleries by EAB larvae. Photos by Mark Guthmiller

WI DATCP Compliance Agreements

Some EAB Compliance Agreement Deadlines Extended - Due to the unusually cold winter temperatures, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection has extended deadlines for transporting and processing regulated ash products within Wisconsin. The deadline for transporting ash out of a quarantine area was extended to April 30, and the processing deadline for these materials is now May 31. **Firewood is not included in the extension.** Based on long-term forecasts, the 30-day extension will still be well before emergence.

The extension is available only to businesses that have compliance agreements with either DATCP or the U.S. Department of Agriculture. To obtain the extension, current compliance agreement holders should contact Tim Allen, timothy.allen@wisconsin.gov, 608-516-7196, or Christopher Deegan, christopher.deegan@wisconsin.gov, 608-224-4573.



Emerald ash borer possible initial emergence map as of May 14th.

Ash Pest Comparison Cards

DNR Staff - Ash Pest Comparison Cards for Professionals are now available for order through OTIC with publication number FR-525. These cards (sized approximately 4" x 3") assist professionals in the field with emerald ash borer identification when compared to other ash pests. We need your help in getting these into the hands of the appropriate parties such as county foresters and cooperating foresters. Others are helping too:

- Forestry team leaders will be getting copies to their DNR FR field staff.
- Urban Forestry is distributing them to community foresters and arborists.

Supplies are limited, so the intent is for each professional or professional crew to have one copy. The EAB Field Guide Cards, FR-458 and FR-459, are best for the general public.

Gypsy Moth –Bill McNee

Hatch, phenology, population predictions, and homeowner controls

As everyone is well aware, the spring of 2014 has turned out to be a cold one. Our first report of hatching gypsy moths came from Rock County on April 30. Biosim phenology software is predicting that we are at or past peak hatch in southwest Wisconsin as of May 12. The software predicts that the start of hatch was about

10 days behind average in southwest Wisconsin, but in the northwest, hatching will be about 3 weeks behind average.

Below is the last few years of first confirmed hatching dates in Wisconsin.

- 2014 – April 30, Rock Co.
- 2013 – May 6, Rock Co.
- 2012 – April 2, Green Co.
- 2011 – May 9, Rock and Dane Cos.
- 2010 – April 9, Rock Co.
- 2009 – April 27, Dane Co.
- 2008 – April 30, Dane Co.
- 2007 – April 25, Dane and Brown Cos.

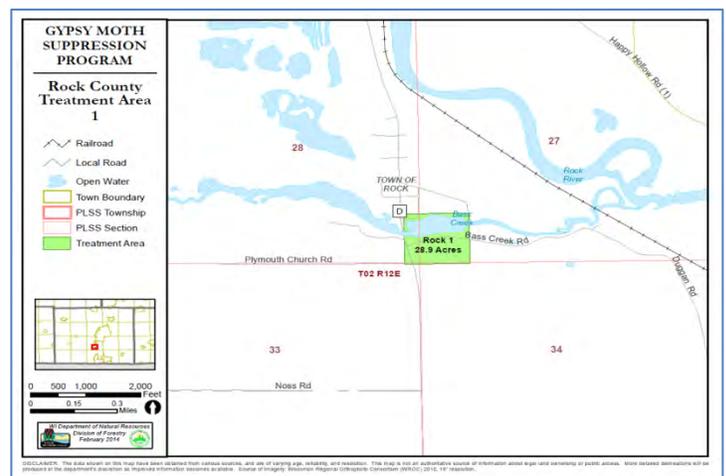


Gypsy moth caterpillars hatching from an egg mass.

At present, we are not expecting significant problems with gypsy moth this year, although the pest may still be a problem on scattered trees. The wet and cold spring weather should also help the *Entomophaga* fungus to infect and kill gypsy moth caterpillars. Homeowners who are interested in reducing gypsy moth populations should oil or remove egg masses before they start hatching, and put up sticky barrier bands on host trees with more than a few egg masses on them. Additional management options for homeowners and woodlot owners (sticky barriers, burlap bands, etc.) are available at www.gypsymoth.wi.gov. Homeowners considering insecticide treatments this spring should contact an arborist or tree service as soon as possible if they have not already done so. The Wisconsin Arborist Association has a list of certified arborists available at www.waa-isa.org. Additional businesses offering insecticide treatments may be found in the phone book under ‘Tree Service.’ Homeowners can also purchase insecticides at garden centers, hardware stores and large retailers.

WI DNR Gypsy Moth “Suppression” treatments – Mark Guthmiller

Monitoring of gypsy moth egg hatch and tree phenology continues at the one DNR gypsy moth suppression treatment block in Rock County. Observations are currently targeting some time before or shortly after the Memorial Day weekend. The Rock County block is a small 29 acre block in the Village of Afton, southwest of Janesville. For more information and to view maps visit: <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov/>



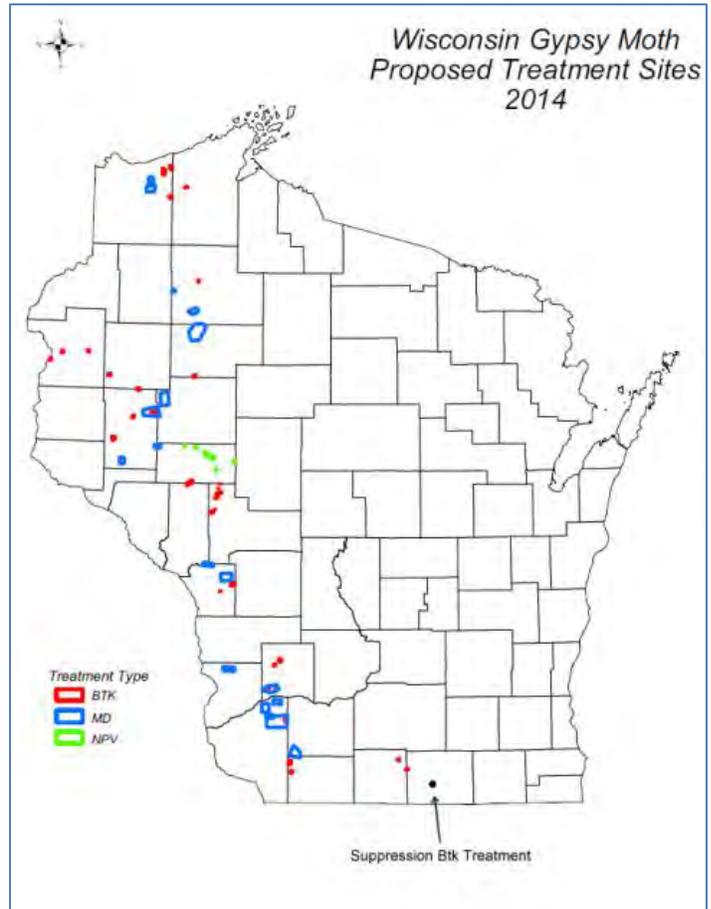
Rock County gypsy moth suppression treatment block in Afton.

Slow-the-Spread treatments by the Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)

DATCP expects to start treatments in southwest Wisconsin possibly as soon as next week 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:

<http://datcpgis.wi.gov/GypsyMoth/>. Individuals can sign up for spray updates or find additional information at www.gypsymoth.wi.gov.

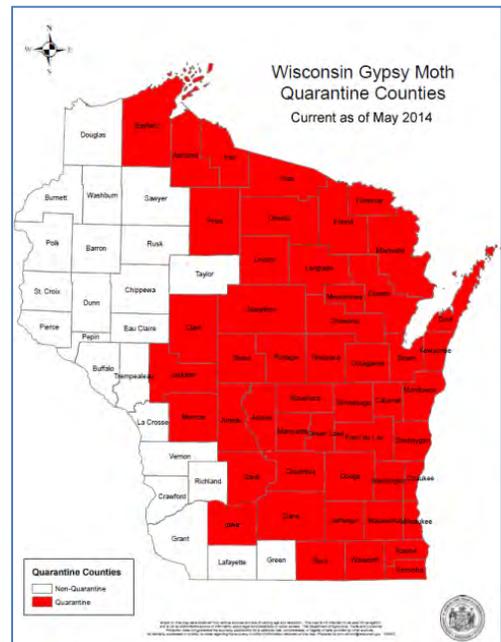


Map of 2014 proposed slow-the-spread and suppression treatments.

Iowa County Added to the Gypsy Moth Quarantine Area

At the end of March, Iowa County became the 49th Wisconsin county to be added to the gypsy moth quarantine. Twenty three counties have yet to be quarantined. Under the quarantine rules, it is illegal to move or transport any wood product or outdoor household articles that have been exposed to gypsy moth from a quarantined area to a non-quarantined area without inspection or certification. For more information, visit:

http://datcp.wi.gov/Environment/Gypsy_Moth/Quarantine_Regulations/?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1.



Gypsy moth quarantine area as of May 2014.

Winter Browning of Conifers

Numerous calls have come in to foresters and forest health staff regarding browning of conifer needles from around the state. The southern district also has its share of brown conifers. A press release was created by Todd Lanigan, forest pest specialist out of Eau Claire, which discusses the possible causes.

April Press Release:

Browning on evergreen trees being reported across Wisconsin this spring DNR forest health specialists advise a wait-and-see approach before removing

MADISON - People across Wisconsin have been contacting state forestry officials noting they are seeing some unsightly brown on the evergreen trees along roadsides, parks and yards.

The harsh winter created some serious challenges for cone-bearing conifers and other evergreens this year due to salt and winter drying. Todd Lanigan, plant, pest and disease specialist for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, says there are a few telltale signs to look for in determining the source of the damage and appropriate next steps.

"Coming through a difficult winter that forced many communities to increase salt use on the roads, we expected to see some effects," Lanigan says. "As the surrounding vegetation starts to 'green up,' the contrast is even more noticeable to homeowners and motorists used to seeing healthy pines, cedars and junipers."

The use of de-icing salt affects vegetation along roadways through runoff and salt spray. As the snow melts and salty runoff accumulates, entire groups of trees or shrubs near the puddles may show off-color needles. Scattered reddish brown streaks and spots typically result from salty slush that has been splashed up by plows and fast-moving traffic.

In both cases, the discolored needles may eventually fall off. Spruce trees tend to be more tolerant of salt spray and runoff than native pines.

Winter injury - also known as winter drying - represents another contributor to the high number of discolored conifers this year. When the ground is frozen for long periods, the trees are unable to replenish moisture in needles exposed to harsh winds and the winter sun.

Is it possible to tell the difference between salt damage and winter drying? Lanigan says if the tree or shrub is green below the snowline, winter drying is likely the culprit. Discolored needles on the south sides of trees and shrubs also indicate winter drying.

Unfortunately, many evergreens are likely suffering from a combination of salt and winter injury this year. But there is hope.

If the buds are not affected, new green growth will soon appear. Some trees and shrubs are able to sustain damage covering up to half of their surface area and still recover.

"Trees are pretty resilient and do have the ability to recover from some injuries," Lanigan says. "Unless they pose a hazard to a structure or vehicle, don't be in a hurry to remove them. You may find they'll surprise you."

Miscellaneous Topics and Observations

WI DNR State Property Firewood Rule

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 at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/firewood.html>.

Until the anticipated change goes into effect, if you are bringing 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.

Eastern Tent Caterpillar Forming Tents

I noticed last week my first tent of the year made by the native eastern tent caterpillar. These caterpillars are not considered a major forest pest and primarily feed on fruit trees in the genus *Prunus*. Treatment is generally not warranted unless you have high valued ornamentals. For more information:

<http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Assets/pdfs/A2933.pdf>



Tent of Eastern tent caterpillar recently observed in Dane County.

Staff Conducting Annosum Surveys Find Conks

Fall is usually the best time to search for annosum conks when they are usually the largest. As a perennial conk they may start to degrade over the winter but then start to put on a new pore layer in the spring and continue to grow during the season. Intensive surveys were conducted recently on portions of two previously confirmed plantations in Sauk and Grant Counties over the past two weeks. Both the newly forming conk (popcorn phase), degrading perennial conk, as well as perennial conks with new pore surface were routinely detected in the stands. Conks are most commonly found at the base of the tree at the duff layer. Annosum is a serious root rot disease of managed conifer plantations. Red and white pine plantations are most impacted in Wisconsin. For more information visit:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/foresthealth/annosumrootrot.html>



Perennial conk of annosum showing the new white pore surface starting to form.

Forest Health in the News

-Thousand Cankers Disease Detected in Italy

In recent years we have been hearing about many foreign pests being imported into North America and very little about North American pests being exported to other parts of the world. Recently we learned of a new export – Thousand Cankers Disease and the Walnut Twig Beetle, native to the southwest US, have been detected in northern Italy near Venice. Walnut species are intensively cultivated for timber in parts of Europe, and foresters are very concerned. Read more at: <http://apsjournals.apsnet.org/doi/abs/10.1094/PDIS-10-13-1027-PDN?journalCode=pdis&&>.

-Asian Longhorned Beetle Declared Eradicated from Boston

Asian Longhorned beetle declared eradicated from Boston, Massachusetts after a four year battle with the pest. Read more online at:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/banner/help?1dmy&urile=wcm%3apath%3a%2FAPHIS_Content_Library%2FSA_Newsroom%2FSA_News%2FSA_By_Date%2FSA_2014%2FSA_05%2FCT_alb_boston.

-Wisconsin Officials Cut Trees at State Park

This article is related to beech bark disease and tree removal at Whitefish Dunes in Door County:

<http://greatlakesecho.org/2014/05/14/wisconsin-officials-cut-diseased-trees-at-state-park/>

For more information on beech bark disease visit:

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

-Walnut Trees Stolen

Although not a typical insect or disease issue here is an article on stolen walnut trees in Wisconsin:

http://lacrossetribune.com/news/state-and-regional/thieves-targeting-walnut-trees-in-rural-areas/article_32541e9d-9737-59e5-9c4f-ef312cd68014.html



Sign of Spring

SOR Forest Health Assistance

Wisconsin DNR, Forest Health Protection Unit

May 2014

Contacts for DNR staff, municipal foresters, and forestry cooperators

<p>Mark Guthmiller Forest Health Specialist Wisconsin DNR 3911 Fish Hatchery Road Fitchburg, WI 53711 Phone: (608) 275-3223 Email: Mark.Guthmiller@wisconsin.gov Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, Richland, Rock, and Sauk</p>	<p>Bill McNee Forest Health Specialist Wisconsin DNR 1155 Pilgrim Rd. Plymouth, WI 53073 Phone: 920-893-8543 Email: Bill.McNee@wisconsin.gov Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha</p>
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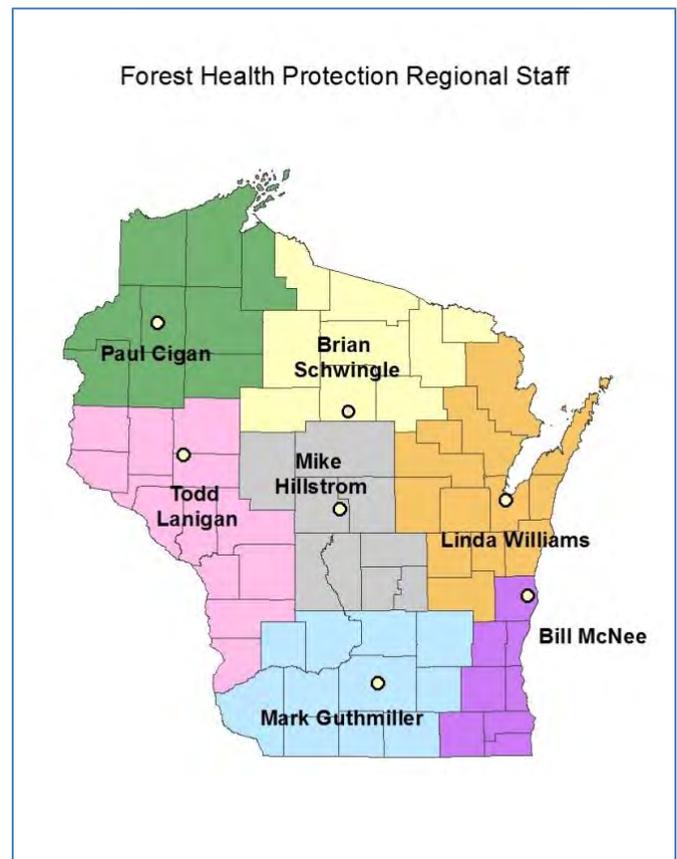
For a statewide forest health staff list:
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/staff.html>

Additional Program Web-based Resources:
 WI DNR Forest Health web site:
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/>

Report Emerald Ash Borer:
 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: dnfrgypsymoth@wisconsin.gov
 visit the website: <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov>
(It is also recommended to report gypsy moth to your local government)

Please direct public inquiries regarding yard tree concerns to UW county or state extension offices: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/>



[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.]