

West Central WI Forest Health Report

February 2014

Topics covered this month:

[Effects of cold on insects](#)

[Woodpecker activity on ash](#)

[Spread of EAB since 2008](#)

[New firewood restrictions for DNR lands](#)

[Bad news for monarch butterflies](#)

[2013 forest health annual report](#)

Effects of Cold on Insects

Many of you have likely seen the recent news articles discussing how the cold temperatures this winter will affect insects such as emerald ash borer. Several factors play into insect survival during cold weather.

- Did the insect have time to acclimate to the cold or did the cold weather happen suddenly? Insects able to slowly acclimate to cold temps from fall to winter are much less likely to be killed than those exposed to rapid changes in temperature (like a late spring frost after warm temperatures).
- How cold did the air temperature get? Most insects overwinter in places where wind chill does not affect them (under bark or in the soil). Minor insect mortality may occur at air temperatures below 0°F but temperatures typically need to reach into at least the -20s°F to kill a high percentage of an acclimated insect population such as EAB.
- Insects reproduce quickly so even if 50% mortality or greater occurs populations can rebound rapidly.

For these reasons, forest health staff recommend continuing with EAB management as planned in 2014. Populations of more southerly insects, such as praying mantids, may be harder hit but will likely recover within a few years.

Woodpecker Activity on Ash

Winter is a great time to detect new EAB infestations. Keep your eyes open for the characteristic pale colored bark that results from woodpeckers “flecking” the rough outer bark away to feed on EAB larvae.

Photo 1. Pale looking ash bark resulting from woodpeckers feeding on EAB larvae. Photo by southeast forest health specialist Bill McNee.



Spread of EAB Since 2008

Although we have been pestering you about EAB for many years, populations are just reaching the point where they are starting to spread rapidly and cause significant mortality in parts of the state. Currently, 18% of Wisconsin is within 15 miles of a known EAB infestation, up from 10% in July of 2012.

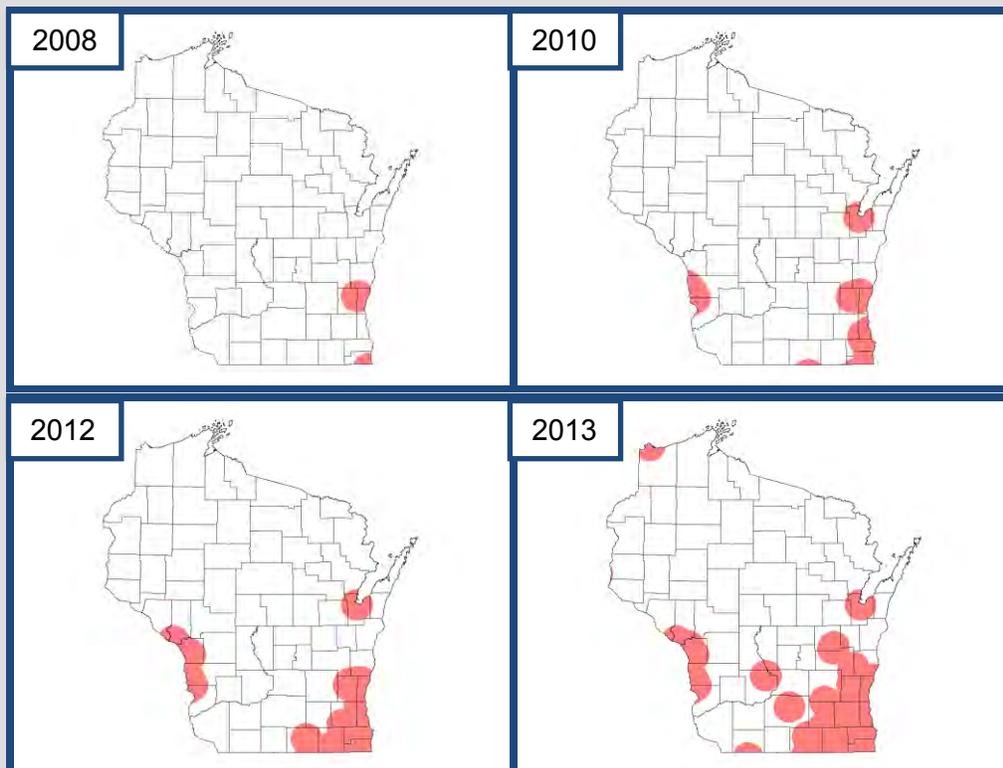


Figure 1. Spread of EAB in Wisconsin since 2008. Red circles show 15 miles buffers around known EAB infestations. Maps produced by Bill McNee.



Photo 2. Extensive ash mortality from EAB near Newburg, WI in 2013. Newburg was the site of the first EAB find in WI in 2008. Photo by Bill McNee.

New Firewood Restrictions for DNR Lands

The Natural Resources Board recently agreed to reduce the distance uncertified firewood may be brought onto state lands from 25 to 10 miles. The out of state restriction will be removed due to this new reduced distance. The new rule has not taken effect yet but will be in place for the 2014 camping season. For more information visit: <http://dnr.wi.gov/news/Weekly/?id=414#art5>

Bad News for Monarch Butterflies

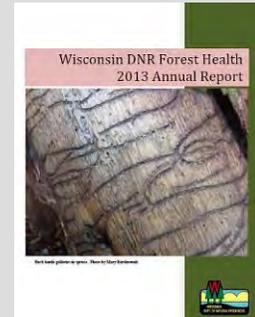
After the effects of cold temperatures on insects, the second biggest insect story recently was the continued decline in monarch butterfly populations. Populations continued to decline rapidly in 2013 due to extreme weather and continued habitat loss along their migratory route. In addition, several new invasive plant species, Black and Pale Swallow-wort, are contributing to further declines in the population.

http://monarchjointventure.org/images/uploads/documents/Swallow-wort_flyer.pdf

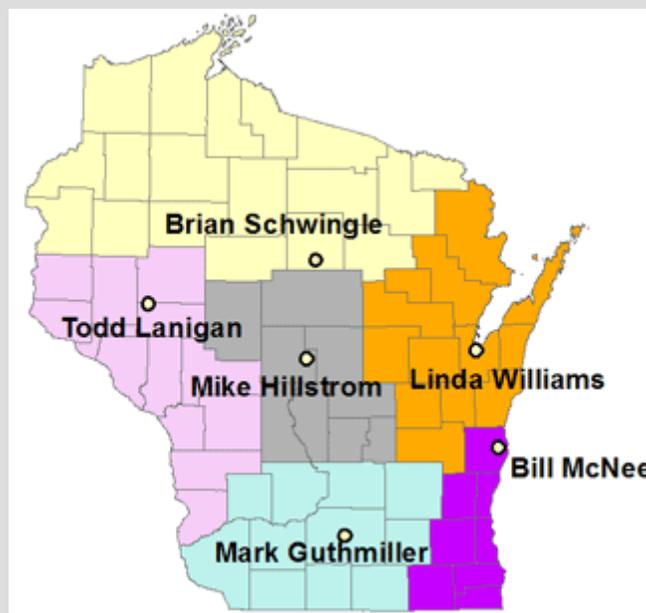
2013 Forest Health Annual Report

The 2013 forest health annual report is now available on the forest health website.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/documents/AnnualReport2013.pdf>



For general forest health and municipal level urban forest health issues contact:



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

West Central Region:

Mike Hillstrom
Forest Health Specialist
Wisconsin DNR
715-421-7825
Michael.hillstrom@wisconsin.gov

Todd Lanigan
Forest Health Specialist
Wisconsin DNR
715-839-1632
Todd.lanigan@wisconsin.gov

Statewide reporting systems:

Report EAB:

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 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. 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.