

West Central WI Forest Health Report

November 2014

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Mike Hillstrom Office Move

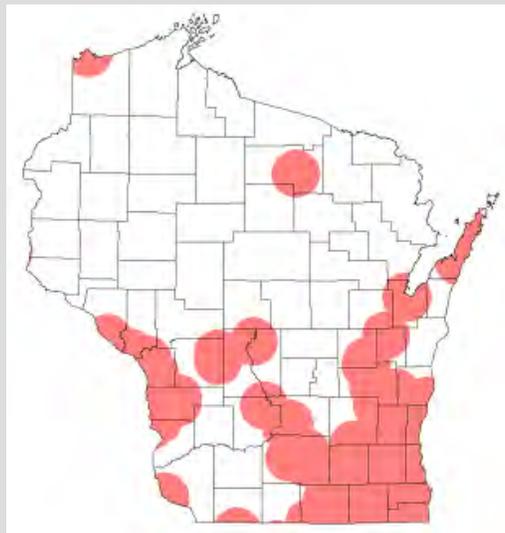
For those of you working in the central counties of WCD I am moving my office from Wisconsin Rapids to Wisconsin Dells on Dec 1, 2014. I will be disconnecting my landline at that point and will only have a cell phone. So going forward please use 715-459-1371 to contact me.

Arthropods

Emerald Ash Borer

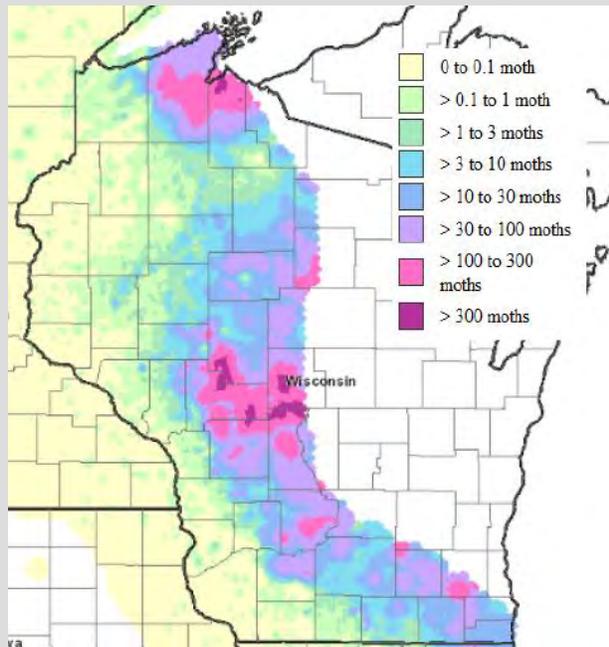
New EAB finds - A tenth new county will be added to the EAB quarantine list in 2014. EAB was recently discovered on a trap in Rhinelander in Oneida County. Similar to the find in Adams County this summer the tree the trap was hanging in had no obvious signs of EAB infestation. In west central district EAB was recently discovered in Arcadia in Trempealeau County. Trempealeau County has been quarantined since 2012.

Figure 1. Map showing 15 mile buffers (in red) around all known EAB infestations in Wisconsin.



EAB found infesting white fringe tree – EAB was recently confirmed infesting white fringe tree (*Chionantus virginicus*) in Ohio. White fringe tree is in the olive family (Oleaceae), and although this species is not native to Wisconsin, we have lilac and privet which are in the same family. Fortunately, previous research has found that lilac and privet are not suitable hosts for EAB. Ongoing research will determine what impact EAB may have on white fringe tree.

Gypsy Moth



Gypsy moth trapping is complete for 2014. Approximately 90,000 male moths were caught in 13,000 traps in 2014 compared to 360,000 in 18,000 traps in 2013. The harsh winter and cool rainy weather this year likely caused the decrease in numbers. Nonetheless, west central Wisconsin had large numbers of moths caught in traps in parts of Clark, Jackson, Monroe, Wood and Juneau Counties.

Figure 2. Map of 2014 gypsy moth trap catches. Highest trap catches in purple. The white area in eastern Wisconsin was not trapped.

New Forest Invasive – Spotted Lanternfly

Another new invasive has been discovered in the U.S northwest of Philadelphia. The Spotted Lanternfly is a pest of some forest trees, fruit orchards, and grape vines. This bug is a sucking insect that damages plants by removing sap. The infested area has been quarantined and the hope is that the insects can be eliminated. It's actually a rather attractive insect. Check out a photo and read more at:

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/thetwo-way/2014/11/03/361244442/invasive-bug-prompts-quarantine-in-pennsylvania-townships>.

Invasive Plants Invasive Plant Contacts

With Tom Boos leaving the Wisconsin DNR this fall the Forest Invasive Plants Coordinator position is vacant for the time being. If you have invasive plant questions please contact:

- WMA-PFGP Program - contact Mike Putnam
 - Michael.Putnam@wisconsin.gov; 608-266-7596
- NR40 and Pesticides – contact Kelly Kearns
 - Kelly.Kearns@wisconsin.gov; 608-267-5066
- Outreach – contact Bernie Williams
 - Bernadette.Williams@wisconsin.gov; 608-266-0624
- Other – contact Becky Gray
 - Rebecca.Gray@wisconsin.gov; 608-275-3273

Diseases

Bur Oak Blight (BOB)

Bur oak blight is a relatively new disease to Wisconsin having been first discovered here in 2010. Marquette County recently became the 21st county with the disease in Wisconsin. BOB was discovered in the 1990s and has also been identified in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota and Nebraska. BOB is considered a blight disease and is caused by the fungus *Tubakia iowensis*. Interestingly, only the Bur oak species with smaller acorns (*Quercus macrocarpa* var. *oliviformis*) is susceptible. Swamp white oak may also be infected if surrounded by severely infected bur oaks. Severe infections cause all the leaves on a tree to drop late in the summer but even these trees will likely leaf out fully the following spring. However, if trees are repeatedly defoliated other insects or diseases may kill these stressed trees. Recent research suggests that a root injection of propiconazole in late May or early June after leaves have fully expanded (at the same rate used for oak wilt) is effective for several years.

- Iowa State University bur oak blight article with info about the fungicide treatment: <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/2012/9-12/buroakblight.html>
- Forest Service pest alert on bur oak blight: http://na.fs.fed.us/pubs/palerts/bur_oak_blight/bob_print.pdf

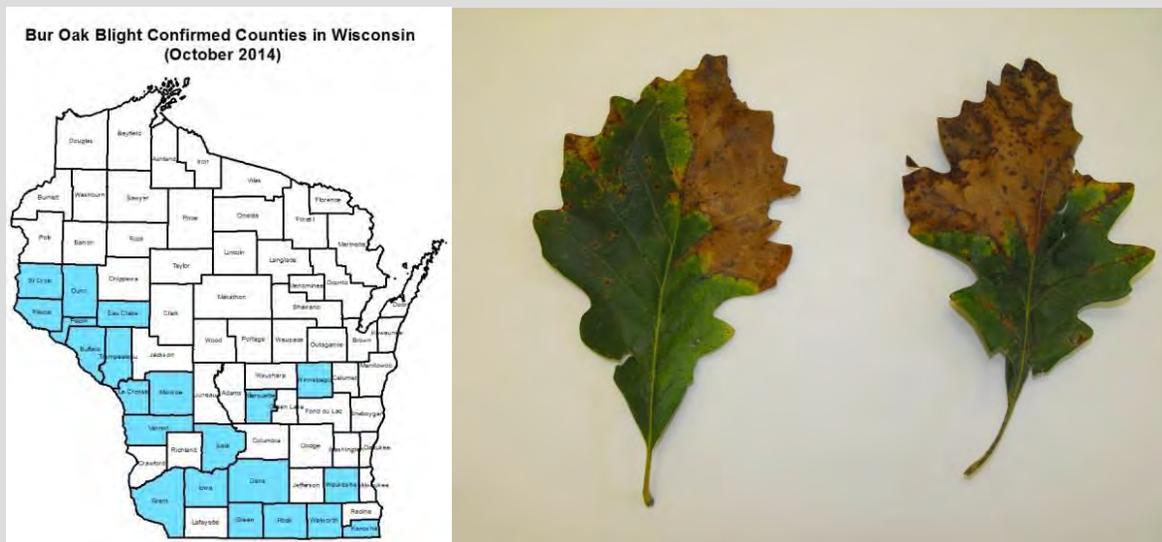


Figure 3. The 21 counties confirmed with Bur Oak Blight in Wisconsin (in blue).
Photo 1. Leaves infected with bur oak blight collected from Marquette County in Sept 2014.

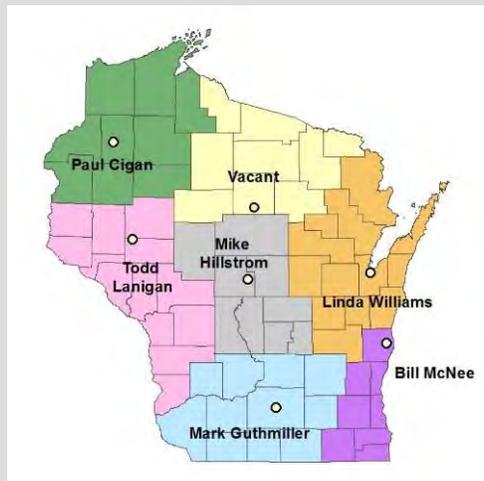
Phomopsis Spruce Decline

Phomopsis spruce decline is the name given to the new disease (new set of symptoms anyway) impacting spruce trees in the Upper Midwest over the past ~5 years (mostly in Michigan). Phomopsis is a fungal pathogen known to cause shoot blight of nursery and tree farm spruces but now is causing new symptoms such as cankers, needle loss and branch death in mature spruce landscape trees. The cankers are only seen by peeling away the bark making diagnosis difficult. This disease may be taking advantage of stressed trees and may be interacting with the numerous other pathogens that are known to affect spruce such as *Rhizosphaera* and *Diplodia*. Engelmann and Colorado blue spruce are the most susceptible species. There are no management recommendations at this time other than to keep trees as healthy as possible. For more details check out <http://www.hrt.msu.edu/assets/PagePDFs/bert-cregg/PhomopsisSpruceDeclineFinalPrint.pdf>.

Photos 2, 3. Needle loss, twig death and cankers caused by Phomopsis spruce decline.



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



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

West Central District:

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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 dnrfrgypsymoth@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 District 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.