

# West Central WI Forest Health Report

## April 2015

### Topics covered this month:

#### Insects

[Gypsy moth](#)  
[Eastern tent caterpillar](#)  
[Eastern larch beetle](#)  
[EAB trapping 2015](#)  
[Ash insecticide treatments](#)

#### Earthworms

[Jumping worms](#)

[Invasives Video Contest](#)

### Arthropods Gypsy Moth

Gypsy moth hatch is getting started in southern Wisconsin. Aerial treatments are likely to begin sometime in early to mid-May depending on weather conditions. More details at <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov/>.

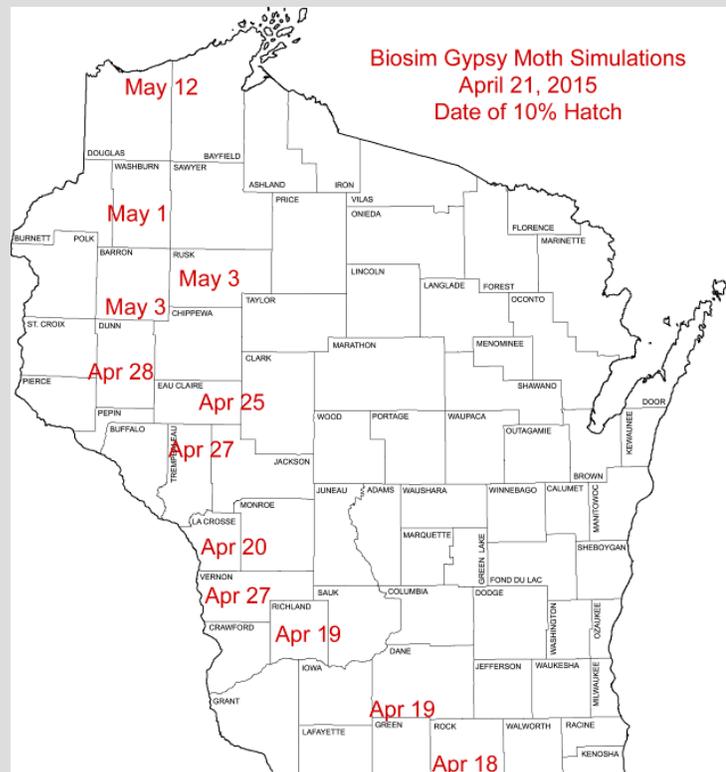


Figure 1. Projected 2015 dates for 10% gypsy moth caterpillar hatch.



## Eastern Tent Caterpillar

Eastern tent caterpillars started hatching April 1 in far southern Wisconsin. Destroying the small tents (when the caterpillars are inside) early in the year by hand or by dropping in soapy water is the easiest way to prevent defoliation.

Photo 1. Small eastern tent caterpillar tent formed as the leaves started to emerge on a wild cherry tree.

## Eastern Larch Beetle (By Todd Lanigan)



Photos 2, 3. Tamarack mortality caused by eastern larch beetle.

Mortality from eastern larch beetle is increasing in northern Wisconsin. Trees that were infested in 2014 are easy to see now. Woodpeckers have been actively searching the tamarack for a meal of larvae and beetles causing the trees to look reddish in color from the missing bark. **We highly recommend checking any tamarack stands you manage for eastern larch beetle activity this year.** We will relay any damage we find during aerial surveys to you.

Eastern larch beetle attack tamaracks that are under stress. The stress could be caused by drought, prolonged flooding, a drop in the water table, defoliation, etc. Tamaracks have been under stress from the droughts of 2012-2013 and 2014 larch casebearer defoliation which set the stage for eastern larch beetle outbreaks. Once eastern larch beetle starts causing mortality in a stand we often see further mortality in that stand and/or area.

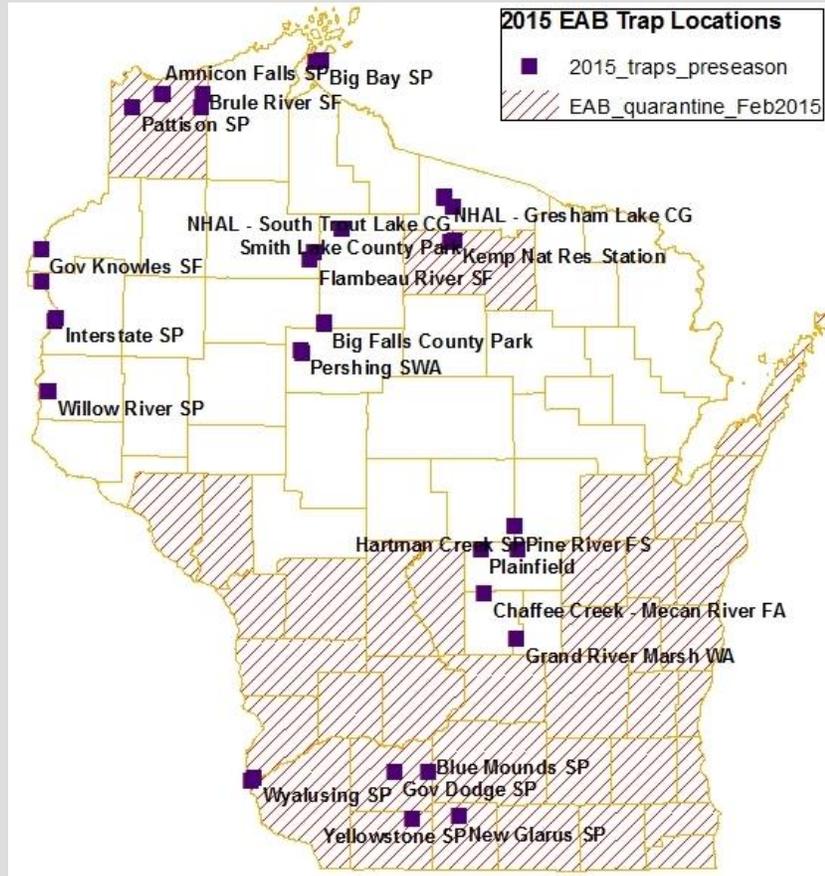
Taylor County is one area where foresters discovered mortality this winter. Foresters had established a strip clear cut timber sale on the county forest in a tamarack/black spruce stand in 2012 and did not find any eastern larch beetle activity. After reevaluation this winter, eastern larch beetle mortality of tamarack was widespread in the stand. Because of the extensive mortality the timber sale was modified to a clear cut with seed tree retention. Eight to ten seed trees per acre of tamarack were left to produce a last crop of seed before they are killed by the beetles. A timber sale on the Pershing State Wildlife Area in Taylor County was also modified because of eastern larch beetle activity.

## EAB Trapping 2015

Forest health is putting the final touches on our EAB trapping plan for 2015. We will be putting out 40-45 double decker traps at more than 20 locations mostly on state lands. EAB adult emergence starts at approximately 450 degree days so we aim to get traps up by 400 degree days. As of April 22 accumulated degree days in Wisconsin were between 75 and 200.

DATCP and APHIS are in the process of finalizing their trapping plans for 2015 as well.

Figure 2. 2015 DNR emerald ash borer trap locations.



## Ash Insecticide Treatments (By Renee Pinski, DATCP Forest Entomologist)

The treatment window for soil-applied systemic insecticides used to protect ash trees from EAB extends from mid-April to mid-May. Application during this period allows 4-8 weeks for the material to be transported throughout the tree's vascular system prior to the onset of EAB adult and larval feeding. By contrast, trunk injection and basal bark spray products are applied later, during the period after bloom and leaf expansion but before eggs have hatched, generally from mid-May to mid-June. Emerald ash borer treatments must be made annually or every two to three years depending on the product used and local EAB pressure, and are only recommended for healthy, high-value ash trees within 15 miles of a known infestation. Owners of trees larger than 20 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) are advised to consult a certified arborist or tree care specialist to have their ash professionally treated with a product that can provide full protection of mature trees from EAB.

## Earthworms

### Jumping worms

During recent development of reasonable precautions for *Amyntas* spp. worms, it was decided to use the common name “Jumping Worms” rather than “Crazy Worms” (also known as snake worms, Jersey wrigglers, or Alabama jumpers). The best time to find jumping worms is late June and early July. If you notice soil that looks like granola crumbs or coffee grounds let us know or grab us a few worms for identification. We are still trying to figure out the distribution of this species in Wisconsin. The worms will thrash around rapidly when you pick them up if they are jumping worms.

## 2015 Invasive Species Awareness Video Contest

June is invasive species awareness month. The Wisconsin DNR is promoting awareness again in 2015 with a video contest on the [DNR Facebook page](#). The contest is open to everyone. Film your less than 2 minute video now and submit by May 30. More info at <http://dnr.wi.gov/news/releases/article/?id=3552>.

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



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

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**Statewide reporting systems:**

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 [dnfrgypsymoth@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dnfrgypsymoth@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](mailto: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.