

Western and Central Wisconsin Forest Health Report – June 2015

Topics covered this month:

Insects

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Arthropods

Forest Tent Caterpillar (By Paul Cigan – Northwest WI Forest Health Specialist)

Defoliation by forest tent caterpillar (FTC) is expected to be light in northwest Wisconsin in 2015. Surveys were conducted in April to determine FTC egg mass densities in Bayfield, Douglas, Iron, Polk, Rusk, Sawyer, and Washburn Counties. Sites surveyed were recently coppiced aspen stands with residual tops. Egg masses were absent at most sites and occurred at low densities when present. Highest densities were observed in northwest Douglas County, but defoliation is expected to be light even there. Heavy defoliation by FTC occurs in years of population outbreak. While an FTC outbreak was anticipated for northwest Wisconsin and northeast Minnesota by 2015, surveys suggest FTC populations may instead be stable to declining, rather than building.



More information on the topic can be found here: http://www.twincities.com/localnews/ci_27986426/northern-minnesota-might-have-seen-peak-forest-tent.

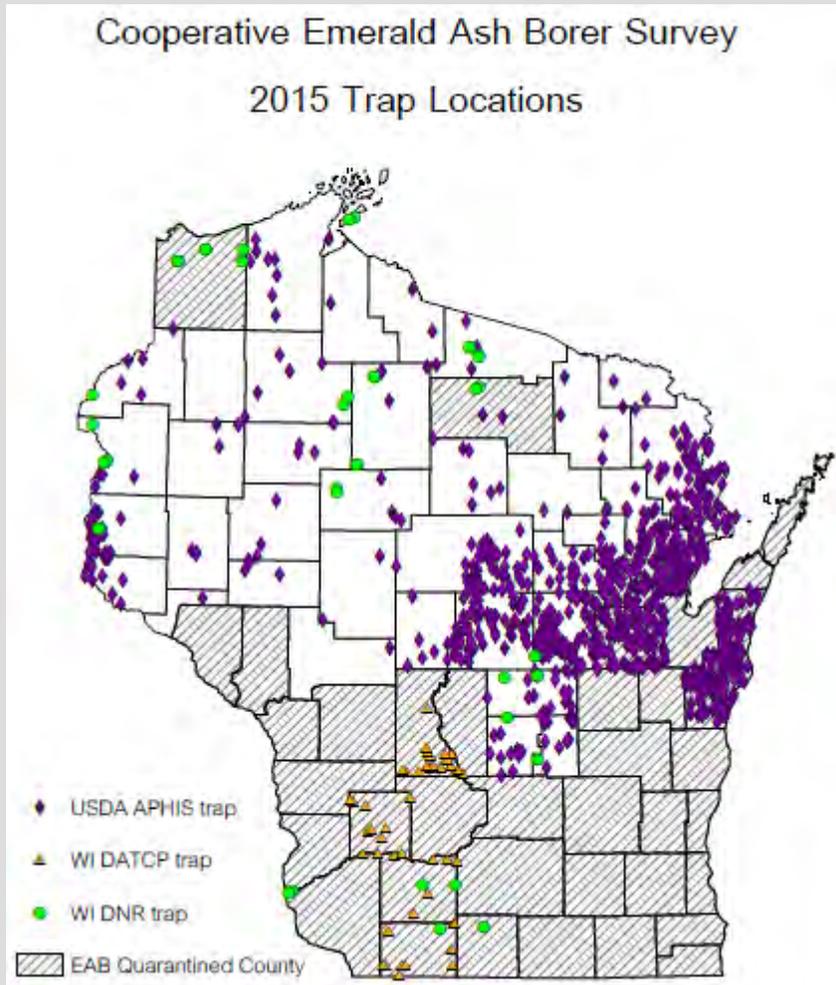
Photo 1. Early instar forest tent caterpillars defoliating an anthracnose-infected green ash; Burnett County.

Eastern Tent Caterpillar

ETC is back in central and western Wisconsin. Moderate defoliation was noted in multiple locations but was not widespread in areas where it occurred. Pupation has already occurred across much of Wisconsin and defoliated trees will start putting out new foliage in the next couple of weeks if needed.



Photo 2. Fully grown eastern tent caterpillars on their tent May 29th in Marquette County.



EAB Trapping 2015

DNR, DATCP and APHIS trapping for EAB is underway in 2015. DNR Forest health 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, typically when black locust is in full bloom.

Figure 1. 2015 emerald ash borer trap locations.

Pine Bark Adelgid

Ever noticed a white pine with white bark? Pine bark adelgid may be the cause. These aphid-like insects cover themselves with white wool and use their sucking mouthparts to feast on sap. High populations may reduce tree vigor or cause some branch dieback but typically the damage is minor. Control is rarely necessary but dormant oils or insecticides can be used if natural enemies such as ladybugs are not able to reduce the population. Pine bark adelgids are typically found on large trees. Pine bark adelgid is native to Europe but has spread across the range of white pine in the U.S.



Photo 3. Pine bark adelgids on a white pine in Juneau County. Photo by Dylan Bell.

Diseases

Oak Wilt – Red vs White Oak

Check out this fascinating video by a shipbuilder that explains the difference between red and white oak wood <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6t2AZubF8U>. Although it's not about oak wilt, the demonstration clearly shows why the oak wilt fungus is able to move much more quickly in red oaks.

Abiotic

Hail Damage to Conifers

Check out forest health specialist Linda Williams's recent article about hail damage to pines in northern Wisconsin <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/documents/2015/ForestHealthNE-May15.pdf>. The storm occurred in September 2014 but damage is becoming apparent over the past month. Please let us know if find damage so we can map it!



Photos 4, 5. Hail damage in Oneida County. Photos by Linda Williams.

NR40

2015 Updates to NR40 Invasive Species Rule

Changes to Wisconsin's NR40 Invasive Species Rule took effect in May 2015. More information about the rule and the species listed are available at

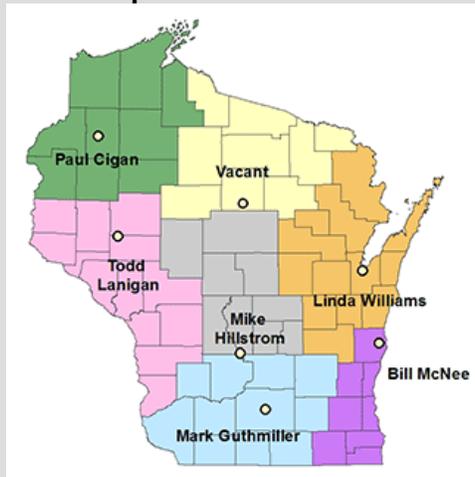
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/classification.html>. Forest health changes of note include:

- Delisted: Beech scale was delisted because it is spread across the range of beech in WI.
- Listing changed: EAB was down listed from Prohibited to Restricted
- Species newly listed as Prohibited:
 - mountain pine beetle
 - walnut twig beetle
 - thousand cankers disease pathogen

FSC Highly Hazardous Pesticide List

The newly revised FSC Highly Hazardous Pesticide list will now take effect on June 30, 2016 instead of in 2015 as originally planned. Pesticides on this list are not allowed to be used on FSC certified forests. More information is available on the DNR [pesticide use webpage](#).

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
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 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.