

Southern Region Forest Health Update

Wisconsin DNR, Forest Health Protection Unit

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Passing of the Newsletter Torch

Mark Guthmiller (Southern Region Forest Health Specialist)

Articles in this newsletter were written by Mark unless otherwise noted



Annosum sanitation burn

On September 26th I transferred into a new position as the southern region forest pest specialist. This new position is part of an ongoing internal restructure of the forest health program. I will now be the lead for all forest health issues for the southern region, including gypsy moth and emerald ash borer issues with the following exception. For the upcoming year, Bill McNee, northeast regional gypsy moth suppression coordinator, will continue to service the southeast counties of the southern region for gypsy moth, emerald ash borer, and beech bark disease concerns. As part of my new position Kyoko Scanlon has also passed the duties of compiling, editing, and distributing the southern region forest health informal newsletter. I want to also thank Kyoko Scanlon and Jane Cummings-

Carlson for their assistance covering general forest health issues in the southern region over the past number of years. We will still have access to their expertise as they continue serving as the state forest pathologist and state forest health coordinator respectively. For more information on who to contact for assistance see the end of this newsletter. Hopefully you will continue to find the newsletter useful and won't use it as kindling to start an annosum sanitation burn (photo upper left part of a demonstration planting trial).

Gypsy Moth Update

Bill McNee (NER Gypsy Moth Suppression Program Coordinator)

Now is the time for landowners and managers to look for gypsy moth egg masses to predict the pest's population size and potential damage to trees next year. For more information, visit www.gypsymoth.wi.gov or read our recent news release available at

http://www.dnr.wi.gov/news/DNRNews_Article_Lookup.asp?id=1509.

At present, we are expecting scattered aerial spray areas in southern Wisconsin. Populations remain high enough to justify aerial spraying in many areas of northeast Wisconsin even though there was a die-off of the caterpillars in June due to diseases.



Gypsy moth egg masses

Communities should contact their county coordinator soon if they are considering participation in the DNR Suppression Program to spray next year. County coordinators must apply by Friday, December 3rd of this year for spraying in 2011. Information on the Suppression Program, egg mass survey instructions and a list of county coordinators are available at www.gypsymoth.wi.gov.

A preliminary map of gypsy moth distribution in western Wisconsin and adjacent states is available online at: <http://da.ento.vt.edu/results3.html>. The traps have picked up a large jump into northeastern Iowa. It remains to be determined if this is due to wind blowing male moths or an established infestation is present.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Update

Bill McNee (NER Gypsy Moth Suppression Program Coordinator)

Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) staff have nearly finished takedown of the 8,000 purple EAB traps hung earlier this year. A few traps were unreachable due to standing water, and will be removed later this fall. If you see a trap still hanging, please contact DATCP by emailing Jennifer.Statz@wisconsin.gov. They want to make sure that all traps are removed. These traps did not find EAB in any new Wisconsin counties this year.

Beginning October 1, businesses with EAB compliance agreements can move regulated materials out of quarantined areas to compliant processing locations. This movement can occur until the end of March, and all transported items must be processed before April 30 to ensure that EAB adults do not emerge from the materials. If there are regulatory questions, contact DATCP by emailing Robert.Dahl@wisconsin.gov. For questions about the movement of regulated articles to other states, contact Joann.m.cruse@aphis.usda.gov. Sample compliance agreements can be seen at www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov; click on 'Resources' at the top of the page.

A new multistate map of known EAB infestations has been produced, and is available at: http://www.emeraldashborer.info/files/MultiState_EABpos.pdf.

Glacierland Resource Conservation and Development is hosting a workshop on the mechanized removal and processing of urban trees. It will take place on November 10 and 11 in Oak Creek in Milwaukee County. An identical session will be run on each of the two days. Pre-registration for the 4 hour morning workshop is \$25 and includes lunch. For more information and online registration, visit www.glacierlandrccd.org and click on 'Events' to find the workshop information. Attendees will be able to observe removal and processing equipment in action.

A new US Forest Service publication co-authored by Bill McNee is now available. "Marketing Dead Timber in the Upper Midwest" can be downloaded at: http://na.fs.fed.us/pubs/forest_products/marketing_timber/marketing_dead_timber_print.pdf. Paper copies can also be obtained by emailing bill.mcnee@wisconsin.gov.

Beech Bark Disease (BBD) Update

Bill McNee (NER Gypsy Moth Suppression Program Coordinator)



Low population
beech scale

Three DNR publications on beech bark disease are now available for downloading from the DNR website, <http://www.dnr.wi.gov/forestry/FH/bb.htm>. They are:

[Beech Bark Disease: Best Management Practices for Reducing the Movement of the Beech Scale](#)

[Homeowner's Guide: How to Detect and Control Beech Bark Disease](#)

[How to Identify the Beech Scale in the Field](#)



Beech prematurely turning color at the original Door County Beech Bark Disease detection site east of Sturgeon Bay, Photo by Bill McNee, WI DNR

Back in September it was noticed that heavily infested beech trees in Michigan were turning color prematurely because of the additional stress placed on the trees. Based on this observation, we decided to do an aerial survey to see if we could identify areas of Door County that were showing BBD impacts. The only areas where we could see the premature color change were at the sites where heavy beech scale populations or BBD mortality were already known. In southern Wisconsin, BBD has not been found but the insect associate, beech scale, has been found in Ozaukee and Sheboygan Counties.

Silver Maple Dieback

Dieback and mortality of silver maple has been reported at various times over the last few years, including the Beloit area and south of the Wisconsin border in the Rockford area, the Pewaukee area in southeast Wisconsin, and recently dieback and mortality has been observed at Governor Nelson State Park in Dane County. I have put together a brief write up of observations with some sample results from Governor Nelson State Park samples. I encourage others to report similar symptoms on silver maple.



Numerous silver maples exhibiting 10-30% dieback



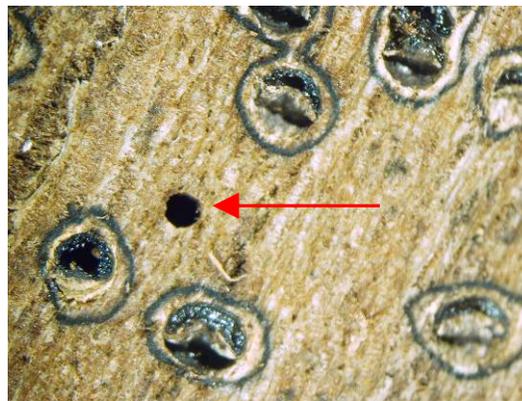
A couple trees were dead or close to dead.



A small 4" diameter silver maple with >50% dieback had olive green streaking in sapwood and was tested for *Verticillium*. The results were negative.



Unidentified fungal pits with beetle galleries on the side and partially under pits.



Close up of beetle entrance hole and fungal fruiting structures under bark.

At about 8-10' from the base of the 4" diam. silver maple, a split was observed. Peeling just under the bark revealed a number of circular fungal "pits" (locule cavities?). If one peeled to the edge of dead and live tissue, and slightly deeper below the bark, galleries and small bark beetles could be found. The gallery

activity seemed to be primarily on the edges of where the fungal pits were and not much directly under the pits. The fungal pits were about 16th of an inch in diameter and the bark beetle entrance/exit holes were a little smaller, about the size of pencil lead. The picture with the beetle hole surrounded by fungal pits was apparently an entrance hole (see red arrow above) as it dead ended and did not continue into a gallery. A couple of these were observed in the area where the fungal pits occurred.



Ascomycete fruiting structure



Individual ascus with 8 ascospores



Individual ascospore

Sampling the fungal pits revealed ascomycete fruiting structures. The mature ascospores were brown, had vacuole like bubbles, and were relatively large at about 15 microns wide and 63 microns long. I have also observed these fungal pits and ascospores before on dieback samples from Norway maple from other areas in southern WI. *Valsa canker* caused by *Valsa ambiens* subsp. *Leucostomoides* is mentioned in Sinclair and Lyon's book *Diseases of Trees and Shrubs* as causing dieback in maple with dark olive streaking of sapwood. This may warrant further investigation.



Minute exit holes of twig beetle on silver maple



Twig beetle about 1/16th inch long



Characteristic pattern of pronotal projections

Bark beetles from the silver maple were also collected and sent to Phil Pellitteri at the UW-Madison Entomology department and Phil was able to

identify the beetles to the genus *Pityophthorus*. The bark beetles were about 1/16th of an inch long with exit holes less than 1/32nd of an inch, about the size of pencil lead. The genus *Pityophthorus* is a group of beetles commonly referred to as twig beetles and do not generally cause a lot of damage. One exception is the walnut twig beetle, *Pityophthorus juglandis*, which seems to be playing a key role in "thousand canker disease" of black walnut. It is unclear if this silver maple twig beetle is a primary cause of dieback or a secondary attacker.

I also wanted to mention that Linda Williams, northeast region forest health specialist, has been looking at lumber degrade issues in silver maple possibly caused by Columbian or beech timber beetle. It is possible the green streaking I had tested for *Verticillium* was caused by timber beetle activity and I missed gallery evidence. For more information on timber beetle activity on silver maple see Linda's October newsletter: http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/forestry/FH/intheNews/2010/NER_10_15_10.pdf

Voles



A report of black ash mortality, in eastern Dane County, revealed two or more years of vole attack. The base of numerous young ash trees were heavily chewed on. Grass control to reduce vole habitat and possible tree tubing is the best management advice. (Others might consider vole damage an EAB pre-emptive removal strategy when ash is involved)

For more information on vole management:

http://www.lrconline.com/Extension_Notes_English/pdf/vole.pdf

Invasive Plants New Publication

A new resource “Field Guide to Terrestrial Invasive Plants” is now available for ordering if folks are interested in a copy. The cost depends on number of copies ordered and are about \$5.00 each. Click the link for an order form: <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/pdfs/Orderform.pdf> To view an electronic copy click on: <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/pdfs/WI%20inv%20plant%20field%20guide%20web%20version.pdf>

North Central Forest Pest Workshop Highlights

Wisconsin hosted this years annual North Central Forest Pest Workshop bringing in participants from states around the region and from Canada. I have highlighted some of the field tour activities from this workshop.



Jen Statz, WI DATCP EAB program coordinator, discusses status of EAB detections around the Newburg infestation.



Jane Cummings-Carlson, WI DNR Forest Health Program Coordinator, summarizes results from a trial EAB sink tree project that was conducted at River Edge Nature Center.



Dr. Chris Williamson, UW-Madison Professor, discusses EAB chemical treatment trials being conducted at River Edge Nature Center.



Luke Saunders, Town and Country Resource Conservation and Development forester, opens the door to discussions on small acreage woodlot harvesting challenges. No, this is not a new EAB panel door trap.



Kyoko Scanlon, WI DNR Forest Pathologist and Todd Lanigan, WI DNR Forest Health Specialist-Eau Claire, demonstrate dry Sporax stump treatment for annosum root rot.



Aaron Burmeister, Master Logger for Burmeister Logging, discusses mechanized treatment of stumps for annosum root rot



Burmeister Logging processor set up with a perforated saw and spray attachment to treat stumps for annosum. Note the blue die added to the liquid product Cellu-Treat being test sprayed.



Tim Beyer, WI DNR Forester for the Northern Unit Kettle Moraine State Forest, discusses ash stand conversion efforts on the property.



Bernadette Williams, Invasive BMP Specialist, discusses invasive earthworm issues while Tim Beyer pours a mustard mixture to force worms to the surface.



Tom Boos, WI DNR Forestry Invasive Plants Coordinator, shares resources available and simple efforts staff can take to prevent spread of invasive plants.

About the newsletter

“Southern Region Forest Health Update” is an informal newsletter created by the Wisconsin DNR, Forest Health Protection Unit. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide foresters in the Southern Region with regional up-to-date forest health information. This newsletter will be issued monthly during the growing season and on an irregular basis during winter as topics come up. We welcome your comments/suggestions on this newsletter and your reports on forest health problems you observed in your area. If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter, please contact Mark Guthmiller at Mark.Guthmiller@wisconsin.gov.

Previous issues of this update and regional forest health updates from NER, NOR and WCR, are available from the WI DNR Forestry website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/FH/intheNews/>.

Articles were written by Mark Guthmiller, regional forest health specialist, unless otherwise noted.

Please report to us

We appreciate reports of forest health problems in your areas. Please contact the following staff for regional forest health problems/questions. Thank you.

Some permanent and continued temporary changes have been made to forest health staff assistance. For forest health assistance in southern Wisconsin, please check the list below of staff and forest health concerns they can assist you with. This would be a good page to print out and keep for future reference. Scroll down:

SOR Forest Health Assistance
Wisconsin DNR, Forest Health Protection Unit
September 2010 to September 2011

Contacts for DNR staff, municipal foresters, and forestry cooperators

For general forest health and municipal level urban forest health issues

Mark Guthmiller (SOR region: SCR & SER combined) 608-275-3223

For gypsy moth

Mark Guthmiller (SCR area) 608-275-3223

Bill McNee (SER Team area) 920-662-5430

Andrea Diss-Torrance (Statewide issues) 608-264-9247

For emerald ash borer

Mark Guthmiller (SCR Team areas) 608-275-3223

Bill McNee (SER Team area) 920-662-5430

For beech bark disease/beech scale

Mark Guthmiller (SCR Team areas) 608-275-3223

Bill McNee (SER Team area) 920-662-5430

Direct public inquiries regarding yard tree concerns to UW county or state extension offices or:

Emerald ash borer hotline 1-800-462-2803
Emerald ash borer e-mail DATCPEmeraldAshBorer@wi.gov
Gypsy moth hotline 1-800-642-MOTH

Additional Program Web-based Resources:

Forest Health web site: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/forestry/fh/>

Gypsy Moth web site: <http://www.gypsymoth.wi.gov>

Emerald ash borer web site: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh>

Emerald ash borer cooperative state web site: <http://emeraldashborer.wi.gov/>

Note: Southern Region is composed of both SCR and SER Team Counties

SCR Team Counties: Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, Richland, Rock and Sauk

SER Team Counties: Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha