

Northeastern Wisconsin Forest Health Update

Wisconsin DNR – Division of Forestry

June 16, 2014

Topics covered this month:

Insects:

Basswood defoliation by scarabs
Basswood defoliators from last fall
Columbian timber beetle document available
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Giant ichneumon wasps
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Larch casebearer

Other:

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Ash anthracnose

Of Historical Interest:

60 years ago - 1954 –
Larch sawfly
Saratoga Spittlebug
25 years ago – 1989 -
Larch needlecast
Larch needlecast

Insects

Basswood defoliation by scarabs – basswood (and some beech) defoliation in Oconto and Shawano Counties is being caused by a greenish



scarab beetle, similar to rose chafer but with a slight greenish cast. It is possibly *Dichelonyx subvittata* which

feeds on some hardwoods and pines in the Lake



States, the New England States, and Southern Canada. Since the damage being done by this beetle is early in the season, it looks a bit like Basswood Thrips damage from a distance.

Basswood defoliators from last fall – in the 9/16/13 pest update I covered the tiny caterpillars that were defoliating basswood and causing the leaves to drop prematurely. I collected some of those leaves and the tiny caterpillars pupated and finally the micro-moths emerged. They're tiny! We still think that they're *Bucculatrix improvisa*, which has 2 generations per year. I've been watching for the caterpillars but haven't spotted them yet this year.



Micro moth with its micro pupal case. Those are millimeter markings on the ruler.

Columbian timber beetle document available – I have developed a one page (front & back) document that details Columbian Timber Beetle and its impacts on silver maple stands in Wisconsin (primarily a problem in the lakeshore counties). If you need a document that you can share with landowners when discussing silver maple on their lands, or if you have maple stands and would like to learn more about Columbian Timber Beetle and how to look for it, email me at Linda.Williams@wi.gov and I'll send you the document.

EAB info – EAB has started to emerge in southern Wisconsin. Olivia Witthun (DNR Urban Forestry Coordinator out of Plymouth) reported EAB emergence in Washington County today (6/16/14). If you think you've found EAB, Bill McNee recommends grabbing the little beetles by their head and spreading their wings apart so you can see the color of their abdomen. EAB has a pretty purple/red abdomen, whereas our native borers that might possibly be confused with EAB do not have that purple/red abdomen.



EAB with wings spread to show purple/red abdomen. Photo by Bill McNee.

EAB new finds in WI - In the past month emerald ash borer has been identified in the following areas around the state:

New County Quarantines:

- Door County - EAB was found in the Town of Gibraltar, near Fish Creek, just south of Peninsula State Park

New finds in Counties already Quarantined:

- Dane County – City of Middleton
- Washington County – Village of Slinger

Forest tent caterpillar – although Minnesota seems to have a developing population of forest tent caterpillar, I haven't seen any problems from this critter yet this year. One area in SW Oneida County had a low population of forest tent caterpillar, but in other areas it's difficult to find even a single caterpillar.



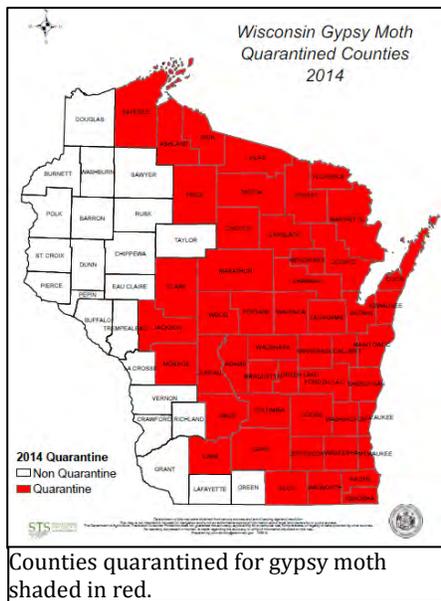
Forest tent caterpillar on oak.

Giant ichneumon wasps – I’ve had several reports of folks seeing giant ichneumon wasps actively parasitizing borers that are inside trees. When you see these insects it’s a sign that other borers are already present, and these are the good guys, so there’s no need to squish them. These parasitic wasps use their long thread-like ovipositors, sometimes up to 3 inches long, to lay eggs deep in the wood of trees where woodborers are feeding. The wasp eggs hatch and chew their way into the woodborer larvae, and eventually will kill its host. Although they may look like a large dangerous wasp they are just interested in parasitizing other insects.



Giant ichneumon wasp. Photo by Collin Buntrock.

Gypsy moth – all gypsy moth spraying of Btk (suppression and slow-the-spread programs) is complete for this year. DATCP is setting gypsy moth traps and has about half of the traps hung already. The Biosim program predicts that moth flight will start about the 2nd week of July in the southern parts of Wisconsin.



Counties quarantined for gypsy moth shaded in red.

APHIS has modified the gypsy moth regulatory policy for log movement. Effective May 28, 2014, APHIS removed the requirement that logs exiting or transiting gypsy moth quarantine areas be covered with a tarp during movement to primary processing facilities located outside quarantine areas.

Homeowners considering insecticide treatments this spring should contact an arborist or tree service very soon. The Wisconsin Arborist Association has a list of certified arborists available at www.waa-isa.org. Additional businesses offering insecticide treatments may be found in the phone book under ‘Tree Service.’ Homeowners can also purchase insecticides (some applied as a soil drench) at garden centers and large retailers.

Larch casebearer – wide spread defoliation by larch casebearer, which causes tamarack to have a brownish cast or to turn completely brown, has prompted concerns from many landowners and travelers who can easily spot this as they drive down the roads in areas of Northern Wisconsin. I’ve seen extensive defoliation in eastern Price County, Oneida, Vilas, and Forest Counties. I’ve also had reports of it in parts of Lincoln County and scattered patches in Marinette County.



Tamarack defoliated by larch casebearer.

Larch casebearer overwinters as a tiny caterpillar and is able to start feeding early in the spring as soon as the weather warms up. They use a mined out needle as a protective house and appear as small tan pointy things on the needles of the tree. Repeated years of defoliation can weaken the tree making it susceptible to attack by Eastern Larch Beetle.

I created a one-page (front and back) document with more information about larch casebearer defoliation. If it would be useful to you, drop me an email (Linda.Williams@wi.gov) and I'll send it to you.



Light to moderate defoliation by larch casebearer. Trees with this level of defoliation would look tan or straw colored from a distance.

Diseases

Ash anthracnose – leaves suddenly raining down from ash trees was caused primarily by early infections of the leaf disease anthracnose. There were multiple reports from southern Wisconsin of ash trees dropping leaves at the end of May, with a couple reports from the Greenville area, and from Waupaca County in northeastern Wisconsin. This problem should be about done by now and the trees should be starting to send out another set of leaves for those that dropped a significant portion of their leaves.



Ash anthracnose.

Other/Misc.

Black cherry leafing out poorly – I've seen, and had reports of black cherry leafing out poorly in some areas in Shawano, Oconto, and Oneida Counties. The trees that I've been able to examine (without cutting down a really nice tree) primarily showed bud mortality due to winter damage. But I've also had some reports of heavy flowering on cherry this spring. I did not see this but if this were the case, and the trees put their resources



Black cherry that leafed out poorly this spring.

into flowering, then the leaves would have been delayed, smaller, fewer, and off-color, like what we're seeing on some trees. I'm unsure how the affected trees will rebound or if they will be under enough stress to be attacked by Peach Bark Beetle.

Firewood rule changed June 1 – on June 1 the regulation on firewood entering state lands changed: the allowable distance decreased to 10 miles and wood from out of state will be allowed, if it is from within 10 miles of the destination campground. As always, DATCP certified wood may enter any state property, wood certified by USDA to EAB standards (not firewood that is only to gypsy moth standards). Unpainted or treated dimensional lumber scraps and compressed wood firelogs are also allowed.

Heavy seed crop on maples in the north - I've been noticing some maples with extremely heavy seed production this year in Forest, Vilas, and Oneida Counties. In some cases there are entire branches or entire trees that appear to have put almost all of their resources into seed production with very minimal attempt at leaf production. In many cases other nearby maples have leafed out normally and it makes the trees with heavy seed appear to be defoliated, but they're not, they just don't have a lot of leaves. Last year there were



Heavy seed crop. Seed production has displaced leaves.

maples in northeastern Wisconsin with very heavy seed crops and minimal leaves and those trees never did send out any additional leaves for the year, so their crowns looked thin all summer long. We'll have to wait and see what these maples decide to do this year.



Heavy seed crop on maple causing some crowns to have smaller leaves, or fewer leaves than normal.

Invasive species awareness month – June is Wisconsin's 10th annual Invasive Species Awareness Month. Take some time to learn about our invasive species that we have here, or take time to read the NR40 Wisconsin Invasive Species Rule and its proposed changes (more on this below).

NR40 Rule public comment period open - You are invited to submit comments on the proposed changes to Wisconsin's invasive species rule (ch. NR 40) through June 30, 2014. The proposed rule package includes revising and clarifying rule language, listing additional species, delisting currently regulated species, and updating scientific names of species. A list of the [proposed species changes](http://dnr.wi.gov/) and literature reviews are available through at <http://dnr.wi.gov/> (search "NR 40"). The proposed rule and supporting documents, including the fiscal estimate,

may be viewed and downloaded from the [Administrative Rules System Web](#) site (search “SS-04-12”).

Written comments on the proposed rule must be received on or before June 30, 2014. Written comments have the same weight and effect as oral statements presented at the public hearing. If you are not able to access or download the information, please send an email to the following address: DNRInvasiveSpecies@wisconsin.gov or call (608) 264-9255.

The Department will hold public hearings on:

- Tuesday June 17, 2014 at 4:00PM at WI Nat. Resources Bldg, 101 S. Webster Street, Madison, WI 53707, Room G09. The public hearing on June 17, 2014 will be webcasted live for those who are unable to participate in person. To request a webcast link, please contact Terrell Hyde by noon on June 16, 2014 at DNRInvasiveSpecies@wisconsin.gov or by calling (608) 264-9255.
- Wednesday June 18, 2014 at 4:00PM, WI DNR Green Bay Service Center, 2984 Shawano Avenue, Green Bay WI 54313, Lake Michigan Room

Oaks with old leaves still attached – in many northern counties (Marinette, Oconto, Forest, Oneida, Vilas, and others?) there are scattered oaks that still have some of last years leaves hanging on. I’ve looked at several of these trees and in one case the branches with the old leaves remaining had old Kermes Scales present, and the branches were mostly dead. In all other cases, I usually find that the terminal bud is dead or partially dead, and a lateral bud, or even a bud further down the twig ends up being the first leaves on the branch. Winter damage to the buds? Perhaps.



Above, left, and below, leaves from last year remaining on trees, and dead buds.



Of Historical Interest

60 years ago, in 1954 –

- **Larch Sawfly** – *Pristiphora erichsonii* (Htg.) Large acreages of larch in Washburn and Sawyer Counties were reported to be complete defoliated. Some stands in Marathon County received heavy defoliation. Medium to light defoliation was observed in Waupaca, Manitowoc and Marinette Counties. The pattern throughout the state as a whole was erratic.
- **Saratoga Spittlebug** – *Aphrophora saratogensis* (Fitch) Areas of infestation not previously reported were found in Lincoln and Oneida Counties. Some areas were small but most were in blocks exceeding 80 acres. Egg laying was heavy in all areas. Aggregate acreage reported was in excess of 2,000 acres.
 - Marinette County – 100 acres
 - Vilas County – 40 acres
 - Oneida County – 1200 acres
 - Langlade County – 100 acres
 - Lincoln County – undetermined to date

25 years ago, in 1989 –

- **Larch Needlecast** – *Mycosphaerella laricina* (Hartig) Neg. European larch (4-5 feet tall) on the Coulee Experimental Forest in LaCrosse County, western Wisconsin, showed symptoms of infection in late July. Moderate defoliation occurred. Neighboring European larch, 40-50 feet tall were apparently unaffected as were neighboring tamarack and Japanese larch. Researchers with the U.S. Forest Service, North Central Forest Experiment Station completed a study of disease resistance to *M. laricina*. Their results showed that Japanese larch exhibited excellent growth and disease resistance. Tamarack was partially defoliated but has not been defoliated in natural stands outside of the test areas. European larch showed different levels of defoliation depending on the seed source. European larch seed from Poland and the USSR exhibited excellent growth and disease resistance (M.E. Ostry and T.H. Nicholls, 1989. Screening Larch for Resistance to Mycosphaerella Needlecast Disease. Northern Journal of Applied Forestry, 6:4, 172-174).
- **Larch Needlecast** – *Meria laricis* Vuill. All European larch plantations on the Flambeau River State Forest, Sawyer County, northwestern Wisconsin, were surveyed for the presence of larch needlecast. Three plantations were observed that had trace levels of infection by *M. laricis*. One plantation was chosen for a disease incidence and impact survey. In September, 34 percent of the trees in the one plantation surveyed were infected with *M. laricis*. Within trees, all infections were light or trace and no defoliation from infection was observed.

Contact Us

Forest Health Staff - contact info for each Forest Health Specialist can be found our webpage at

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

Report EAB:

by phone 1-800-462-2803

by email

DATCPEmeraldAshBorer@wisconsin.gov

visit the website

<http://emeraldashborer.wi.gov/>

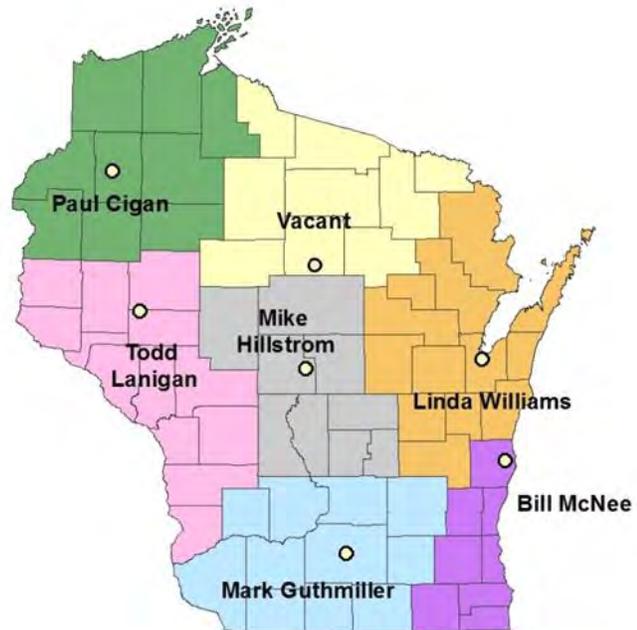
Report Gypsy Moth:

by phone at 1-800-642-6684

by email

dnrfgypsymoth@wisconsin.gov

visit the website <http://www.gypsymoth.wi.gov/>



Northeast Region Pest Update produced by:

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

Note: This pest update covers forest health issues occurring in Northeastern Wisconsin. This informal newsletter is created to provide up-to-date information to foresters, landowners, and others on forest health issues. If you have insect or disease issues to report in areas other than northeastern Wisconsin please report them to your local extension agent, state entomologist or pathologist, or area forest pest specialist.

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.