

Southern Region Forest Health Update

Wisconsin DNR, Forest Health Protection Unit

March 21st, 2014 Vol. 11 No. 2

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Articles in this newsletter were written by Mark Guthmiller, Regional Forest Health Specialist, unless otherwise noted.

Emerald Ash Borer– Bill McNee

Woodpecker flecking

Late winter and early spring is a great time to observe woodpecker flecking and potentially find new EAB infestations or expansions of known infestations. Several new or suspected infestations have recently been found in southeast and south central Wisconsin, and many infestations have also seen an expansion of the known-infested area. Unfortunately, EAB populations in the southeast counties appear to be exploding and EAB impacts are likely to follow.

New detections

Since the last Southern District Pest Update in January, we have had a number of new EAB detections that are worth noting:

- Ozaukee County: Town and City of Cedarburg; Town and Village of Grafton; Town of Port Washington
- Racine County: Town of Raymond
- Rock County: Avon Bottoms State Wildlife Area in Town of Avon (See below)
- Walworth County: Town of Bloomfield; Town of Delavan
- Out-of-State: Freeport, Illinois; Waterloo, Iowa

A complete list of Wisconsin communities where EAB has been found is available online at <http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/articleassets/ConfirmedEABfindsInWisconsin.pdf>.

With the recent detections in Rock County and Illinois, the 15 mile high risk-zone for insecticide treatments has expanded in Green and Rock Counties. In this 15 mile area, treatment of high-value ash trees should be



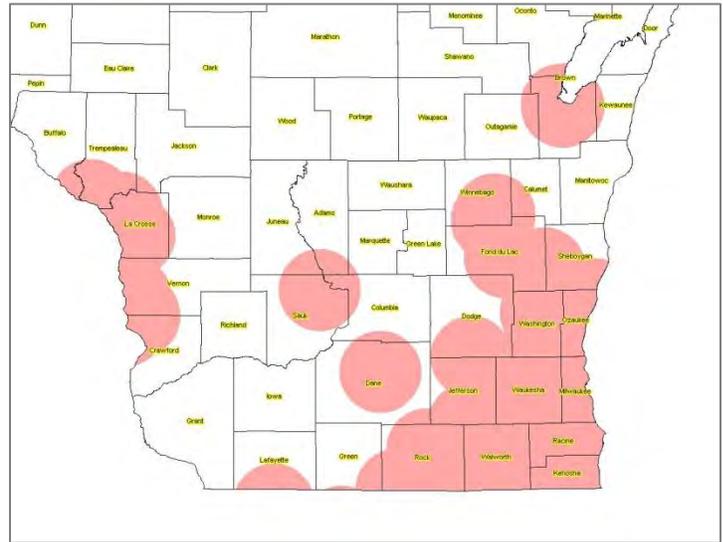
Woodpecker flecking on an EAB-infested ash tree.

considered due to the proximity of known EAB infestations. For woodlots, ash in a quarantined county, or outside a quarantined county but within 15 miles of a known infestation, should be considered high-risk for silvicultural purposes.

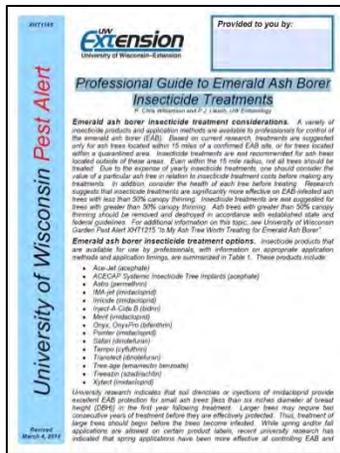
Insecticide brochure updated

In early March, UW Extension revised its brochure, “Professional Guide to Emerald Ash Borer Insecticide Treatments.” Additional pesticides have been added to the list of products that can be used against EAB by certified applicators. It is available online at:

<http://hort.uwex.edu/sites/default/files/Professional%20Guide%20to%20EAB%20Insecticide%20Treatments.pdf>



15 mile high-risk zone around known EAB infestations. Insecticide treatment of high-value ash should be considered in these areas.



Newly revised EAB insecticide brochure from UW Extension.

Low temperatures

With this winter’s frigid temperatures, experts predict that many overwintering EAB larvae will die, but the ash tree-killing pest isn’t going away. Their native habitat in eastern Asia experiences cold winters and the pest is adapted to them. They are somewhat protected beneath the tree bark and many of them will survive the recent cold temperatures. It will be a little warmer beneath the bark than the outdoor air temperature, and the wind chills do not affect them because they are sheltered. Populations of the pest are likely to rebound this summer, since each female beetle that emerges this summer will lay 50-100 eggs.

At this point in time it is not known how heavy the larval mortality will be at any site, or if it will significantly delay ash tree mortality. Forestry experts do not recommend changing EAB management plans solely due to the cold weather.

- Continue to look for EAB in ash trees. Woodpecker damage is a good sign that an ash tree is infested with EAB or other pests.



Overwintering EAB larva. Note that with a 1 or 2 year life cycle any larval stage may be found during the winter.

- Insecticide treatment of high-value ash trees near known infestations should be continued this spring.
- Don't delay tree removals or timber harvests that are already scheduled. Giving non-ash tree species more time to grow means that the future impacts of EAB will be reduced.
- Continue planting non-ash tree species.
- To help slow the spread of EAB, buy firewood in the local area where you plan to burn it, or buy Wisconsin-certified firewood that has been treated to eliminate pests.



Larvae found in March at Avon Bottoms Wildlife Area. Note the discolored middle larva with "suspect" freeze injury.
Photo Mark Guthmiller

Additional information about emerald ash borer, insecticide treatments and forest management can be found online at www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov.

Firewood Restrictions for DNR Lands

The Natural Resources Board recently agreed to the DNR lowering the allowed distance for letting uncertified firewood onto DNR properties. The change will reduce the distance from 25 miles to 10 miles. This rule will go into effect for the 2014 camping season. For more information visit: <http://dnr.wi.gov/news/Weekly/?id=414#art5>.

EAB Confirmed in Avon Bottoms Wildlife Area in Rock County – Mark Guthmiller

EAB was detected earlier this month in the Town of Avon at the Avon Bottoms Wildlife Area, a township jump from the nearest confirmed infestation in the city of Beloit. DNR wildlife property manager, Mike Foy, and Rock County DNR forester, Nick Koltz coordinated a site visit to conduct some visual surveys. Rock County was already quarantined so there was no change in regulations. The detection occurred near the very south most part of the Avon Bottoms property near the Illinois border. Two trees were detected with woodpecker activity and galleries in the lower part of the tree. A number of other ash trees in the area also had woodpecker damage up high. In addition to EAB it was very common to see native ash bark beetle attacks to recent downed trees at this site.



Rock County DNR forester, Nick Koltz, practices peeling and finds EAB galleries low on the tree, likely indicating EAB has been in the area for a few years.



A slightly atypical EAB gallery is shown here with the serpentine pattern but with a bit more wandering nature.



A number of ash trees had split at the base and fallen over at this site. Most all of these were heavily infested with native ash bark beetles. Note the more centipede-like nature of the gallery.

City of Madison Forestry hosts Municipal Forestry Network Meeting to Discuss EAB – Mark Guthmiller

The DNR urban forestry program coordinates periodic meetings for municipal forestry professionals to discuss various topics related to the urban forest. This month, the City of Madison forestry program hosted the meeting on the north side of Madison. The main topic was emerald ash borer with the city staff going over the current status of detections in Madison, the survey methods they were using, and a chance to try some branch peeling. After the indoor session, attendees had an opportunity to see the first find location and surrounding area. Woodpecker damage was commonly observed within the neighborhood. Two additional detections have been confirmed by the city forestry staff, both on the east side of Madison. The original infestation was east of Warner Park and now appears to extend a number of blocks north up toward Cherokee Marsh. A confirmation was also made by city staff near the Interstate 90/94 and Hwy 151 interchange on Crossroads and City View Drives, just west of the town of Burke. A third confirmation was made near the Hwy 12/Stoughton Road interchange on Femrite Dr. on Madison’s S.E. side.



City of Madison forester, Marla Eddy, shows Deerfield public works director, John Doyle, the technique used for branch peeling surveys.



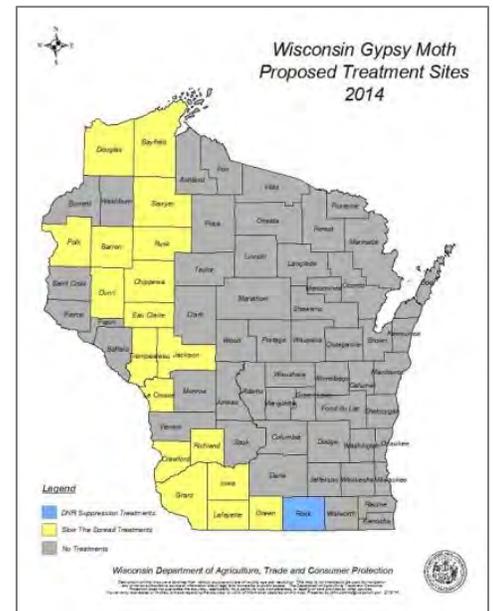
One of the tour sites on the north side of Madison. Clockwise: Woodpecker damage searching for EAB larvae; Impacted row of ash trees; An older gallery with bark split and callus tissue as the tree attempts to wall off injury.

Gypsy Moth- Bill McNee

WI DATCP “Slow-The-Spread” gypsy moth treatments announced

The Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has announced its planned 2014 slow-the-spread (STS) gypsy moth treatments. Beginning in May and continuing through late July or early August, DATCP plans to treat selected areas in western Wisconsin using low-flying planes. A total of approximately 187,500 acres at 60 sites in 18 counties (yellow counties on the map) are targeted for treatment. These areas have been identified as having increasing populations of gypsy moth, a destructive insect with an appetite for hundreds of different species of trees and shrubs. Counties scheduled to receive aerial spraying are: Barron, Bayfield, Chippewa, Crawford, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jackson, La Crosse, Lafayette, Polk, Richland, Rusk, Sawyer and Trempealeau. More information on the “STS” program can be found online at:

<http://datcp.wi.gov/news/?Id=1043>.



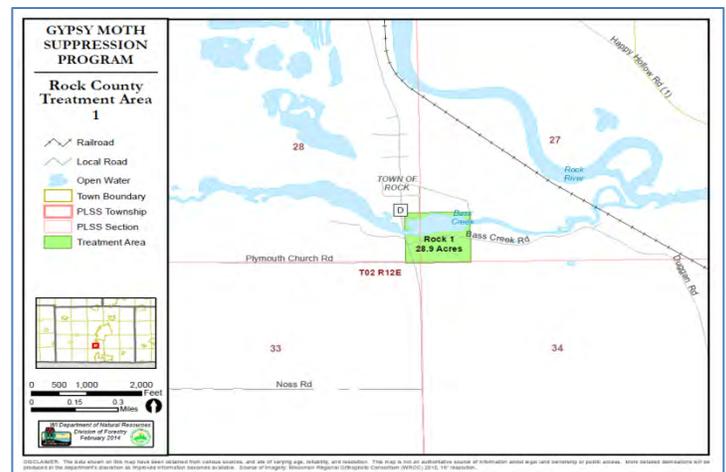
Proposed 2014 gypsy moth treatments will occur in these counties. Counties in yellow have slow-the-spread treatments, and Rock County in blue has a suppression spray.

WI DNR Gypsy Moth “Suppression” treatments

The WI DNR gypsy moth suppression program is a voluntary treatment program available at the request of municipalities and coordinated at the county level. One application was received statewide from Rock County with a small 29 acre proposed block in the Village of Afton, southwest of Janesville.

For more information and to view maps visit:

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



Rock County gypsy moth suppression treatment block in Afton.

Oil or remove egg masses

It will be about a month until gypsy moth egg masses start hatching in southern Wisconsin. Property owners who are interested in reducing gypsy moth populations should consider oiling or removing reachable egg masses well before then. Horticultural oils that suffocate the eggs are available at many garden centers and large retailers. In general, these are applied when temperatures are above 40° and freezing is not imminent. If removing egg masses, scrape them into a can of soapy water and then let them soak for a few days before discarding in the trash. Additional management options for homeowners and woodlot owners are available at

www.gypsymoth.wi.gov.

Property owners looking to hire a business to do insecticide treatments this spring should contact them 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. For larger areas, a guide to organizing aerial spraying and a list of for-hire aerial applicators is available on the state’s gypsy moth website, www.gypsymoth.wi.gov.



Gypsy moth egg masses.

Winter temperatures and gypsy moth

It is believed that this winter’s cold temperatures will help to reduce gypsy moth populations but not cause heavy mortality. According to the US Forest Service, temperatures of -20°F lasting from 48 to 72 hours can kill exposed eggs. Eggs that are laid higher up on the bark of trees suffer higher mortality than eggs located near the ground, and snow acts to insulate eggs from cold temperatures. Fluctuating spring temperatures are also important in causing heavy egg mortality, as alternating periods of freezing and thawing in late winter and early spring may prevent the overwintering eggs from hatching.

Iowa County to be added to gypsy moth quarantine area

On March 31, 2014, Iowa County officially will be placed under state gypsy moth quarantine, joining most of eastern and central Wisconsin already considered to be generally infested with the pest. Iowa County is the 49th of Wisconsin’s 72 counties to be quarantined for gypsy moth. More information about the Iowa County addition can be found online at:

http://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WIDATCP/2014/01/15/file_attachments/263253/IowaCountyGypsyMothQuarantine.pdf

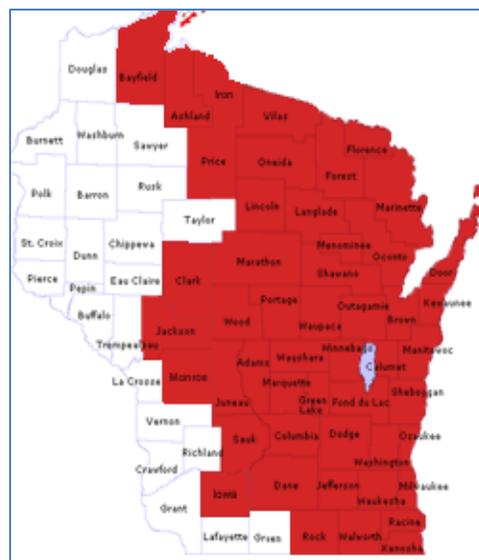
General information about the gypsy moth quarantine can be found at:

http://datcp.wi.gov/Environment/Gypsy_Moth/Quarantine_Regulations/.

Quarantines usually have the greatest impact on plant nurseries, Christmas tree growers and lumber mills because of inspection requirements. In addition, homeowners who move out of the quarantine (intrastate or interstate) are required to inspect outdoor articles before moving them.

The U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has a pamphlet titled “*It’s the Law: Before Moving Check for the Gypsy Moth,*” available from major moving companies and online at

<http://www.hungrypests.com/YourMoveGypsyMothFree/pdf/Gypsy-Moth-Brochure.pdf>.



Wisconsin gypsy moth quarantine map with Iowa County quarantine effective March 31st.

Oak Harvesting and Late Spring Weather- Kyoko Scanlon

It's mid-March, and still it doesn't seem to be warming up much. You may be wondering if oak harvesting restriction that starts on April 1 in the south of tension zone may be pushed back due to cold temperatures.

Even when we experience unusually cold spring, we keep the same message "Stop pruning in April" or "Avoid harvesting in April (in the south of tension zone)" as a general statement for the following reasons; 1. it will be difficult to spread the word out about when to start the restrictions in a timely manner (often when spring comes late, it comes all of a sudden, and before we know it, it's the high risk period) and 2. we want to stress the message of the existing guide so the public can remember it.

That said, the oak harvesting guide allows variance at the stand level when landowner/property manager and other affected parties (foresters, loggers, etc.) all agree based on local information (temperature data, etc.). The rule of thumb – "temperatures above 60 degrees for 7 consecutive days" - was provided by Dr. Jennifer Juzwik to estimate the time that would put a stand at high risk in March. It is not certain if the same can be applied for evaluating risk in mid to late April. University of Minnesota Extension website uses similar figures - "four or five days of nice, sunny days with little wind and temp 55 to 60 degrees will get them flying". When experiencing an unusually cold spring, how long cutting is allowed in April will be up to the comfort level of the landowner/property manager based on the weather situation, risks involved, and relative importance of completing harvesting. Since the stumps will be susceptible for up to 72 hours after cutting, you need to make sure that it will be unlikely for the insects to start flying for a few days after cutting.



Oak tree showing wilt symptoms from oak wilt.

Justification for varying from the guidelines needs to be documented and included into normal approval process for harvesting. For example, for Form 2460-001 (timber sale and cutting report) for public lands, the forester or property manager should use the comment box to document a change from the original approval. For Form 2450-032 (cutting notice) for MFL lands, the DNR Forester should work with the landowner and their agent (e.g. logger, consulting forester) to agree upon the change and then document the agreed upon change on the cutting notice in the file.

If you have regional or site-specific questions on this issue, please contact your Regional Forest Health Specialist. For more information on oak wilt visit: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/OakWilt.html>

For the on-line oak harvest risk guidelines see: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/OakWiltGuide.asp>

Oak Pruning Guidance

Considerations for prolonging oak harvesting into spring are mentioned above and this may have folks questioning recommendations for pruning oaks and when to stop due to risk of oak wilt. Wisconsin DNR staff sent out a press release that retains the recommendation of "no pruning" from April through July, and to consider waiting into November to be extra cautious. It is also important for folks to check with local ordinances that may have set dates for no pruning or cutting of oaks that vary from the DNR recommendation. To read the full press release visit: http://dnr.wi.gov/news/Weekly/Article_Lookup.asp?id=2867

Twig Beetle and an Unidentified Scale on Red Pine

A Twig Beetle of Pine and Spruce (*Pityophthorus puberulus*)

A couple interesting observations were made at a red pine plantation in Sauk County back in January. There was a small area of mortality with some of the common players such as pine engravers, *Armillaria* and *Leptographium* root rots, *Diplodia* shoot blight, and turpentine beetles. In one area I grabbed a couple shoots to confirm *Diplodia* shoot blight and was very surprised when I peeled into one of the shoots and found a number of very tiny little beetles. I have been looking at red pine shoots for years and have never seen this kind of twig beetle. A call to Steve Katovich, with USDA Forest Service, got me directed to Bob Rabaglia, USDA Forest Service entomologist out of Washington, D.C. Bob was willing to take a look and was able to identify the little beetle as a native species called *Pityophthorus puberulus* (no official common name). *Pityophthorus* is a genus with many species, most which function mainly as minor twig beetles of both hardwoods and conifers. This is the same genus as the walnut twig beetle which is implicated in the insect/fungal complex known as “thousand cankers disease”. After a subsequent site visit, I could not readily find more of these twig beetles and I don’t think they are a major concern in terms of tree health other than some minor twig and shoot damage. Bob also sent a web link with a little more information. There were only 3 documented occurrences of this beetle previously in Wisconsin from this data set, two of which were back in the 1930’s on white pine. To see those locations you can click on this link and scroll to the points on the U.S. map.

http://www.barkbeetles.info/regional_chklist_target_species.php?lookUp=2758



The small twig beetle, *Pityophthorus puberulus*, found on the twig just behind red pine needle cluster.



Twig beetle galleries on red pine.



Small twig beetle exit hole the size of a lead pencil.

Unidentified Scale on Red Pine

During the first site visit to the pine plantation in Sauk County mentioned above, there was an odd appearance to the bark on the trunks of a number of red pine. The trees had a more reddish appearance than normal. Closer inspection showed that the very outer bark scales had been flecked off and bark chips were scattered on the snow. A couple checks under the bark did not indicate presence of wood boring insects. It was likely some other insect overwintering just under the bark flaps that woodpeckers may have been going after. I did some informational searches of possible overwintering critters and came across the mention of red pine scale, which has caused problems out east. The red pine scale, *Matsucoccus resinosa*, has two generations, with the fall

generation overwintering as crawlers under bark flaps. I decided to investigate these trees a bit closer. I scraped bark from a number of trees and collected some more branch samples. I was not able to come up with any critters under bark flaps but I did observe a scale at very low levels on twigs. I sent photos to folks in the USDA Forest Service and the scales do not appear to be the red pine scale, which is apparently soft bodied. There did appear to be some correlation of the unidentified scale to curling of branch tips, but I am not certain if the scale was the cause of this curling. Other than the possible curling of twigs, I would not attribute the scale to damage in the stand at this time. I would be interested in other observations of red pine bark flecking or major twig curling, especially if associated with dieback or mortality in red pines. For more information on the red pine scale causing damage out east visit:

http://www.nhstateparks.org/uploads/pdf/RP_pestalert.pdf



Undetermined cause of slightly off color red pine with bark flecked off.



Bark flecking on snow from undetermined cause. Suspected woodpecker activity going after some insect under bark flap.



Curling of red pine twigs often correlated with the presence of the unidentified scale.



A small unidentified scale about the size of a fleck of pepper with a hard black shell and striations.

Baby's Breath and Plant Identification

Last month's newsletter had an article regarding winter invasive plant ID which generated a comment that we need to be careful not to confuse invasive plants for native desirable plants when targeting control efforts. This great advice hit a sensitive spot with me from my college days. I had a part time maintenance job at a city park with numerous formal gardens often used for weddings. My job was to mow grass, water plants, and weed the formal flower beds. Not too difficult. One day I headed out with hoe, shovel, and wheelbarrow and came across a plant that at the time was lacking in beauty and "looked out of place". The last part of that description is basically the definition of a "weed" as I recall. I took after that plant with hoe and shovel



Baby's breath, *Gypsophila paniculata*
Photo by Emmet Judziewicz

and marveled at how much better the flower bed looked. I don't recall at what point in the day the city horticulturist caught up to me and let me know of my great error. I had devastated the crop of ornamental "baby's breath" prized for bouquets and wreaths used at the park for weddings. So make sure you know your plant identification and that it is indeed the species you want to control and not some desirable plant! However, in this case, after 30 years of feeling horrible about my miss-identification, I now feel somewhat vindicated! Looking for a photo for this article I came across this fact sheet on our DNR web site. Here it turns out baby's breath is now considered invasive, particularly on sandy shorelines! I was just 30 years ahead of my time! The point of this story, however, is not to wait 30 years after removing a plant in hopes that it becomes listed as invasive. Take some time upfront to identify plants and learn about potential similar looking native ones before considering management activities. See below for more information on some plant identification resources. If you are curious to learn more about baby's breath:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/BabysBreath.html>

Plant Identification Resources

There are numerous resources available to assist with identification of plants. Here are some sites to get folks started. Take some time looking at these sites and the wealth of information available:

- Wisconsin DNR Invasives website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/>
- UW Steven's Point, Robert W. Freckmann Herbarium: <http://wisplants.uwsp.edu/WisPlants.html>
- UW Madison, Wisconsin State Herbarium: <http://wisplants.uwsp.edu/WisPlants.html>
- UW Madison, Weed Identification and Management: <http://weedid.wisc.edu/weeid.php>
- Invasive Plants Association of WI (IPAW): <http://ipaw.org/> (Click "The Problem" tab)
- Mistaken Identity (mid Atlantic): http://www.nybg.org/files/scientists/rmaczi/Mistaken_Identity_Final.pdf

Giant Hogweed Look-a-likes

Here is an example of one of the plants listed in the last addition and other similar plants that could be confused with it. This site shows some nice comparisons between giant hogweed and similar looking plants at least during the growing season: <http://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/horticulture/hogweedlookalikes.shtml>

Miscellaneous Topics and Observations

WI DNR Forest Health Annual Report 2013

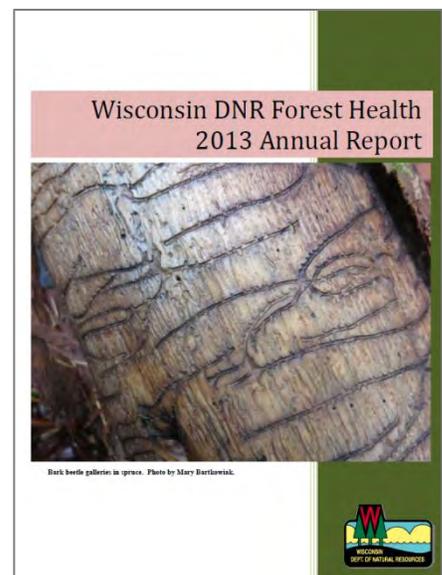
The 2013 Wisconsin DNR Forest Health Annual Report is now available on-line with report summaries of the past year's forest pest activity.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/documents/AnnualReport2013.pdf>

USDA APHIS Plant Health Web Page

The USDA APHIS Plant Health program recently reformatted their web site for faster and easier use. Please check out the bulletin with links to the home page.

<http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/bulletins/a2fbac>



Estimated Impacts of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) on Ash Timber Supply in Minnesota

The Minnesota DNR Resource Assessment Unit published an article on the estimated impacts from EAB on the ash timber supply in that state.

<http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/um/estimatedImpactsEABAshSpeciesTimber%20Supplies-MN.pdf>

DATCP extends deadlines for moving, processing ash (Gov.delivery notice)

Due to the unusually cold winter temperatures, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is extending deadlines for transporting and processing regulated ash products within Wisconsin. The transport deadline is now extended to April 30, and the processing deadline is now May 31. ***Firewood is not included in the extension.***

The extension is available only to businesses that have compliance agreements with either DATCP or the U.S. Department of Agriculture. To obtain the extension, current compliance agreement holders should contact Tim Allen, timothy.allen@wisconsin.gov, 608-516-7196, or Christopher Deegan, christopher.deegan@wisconsin.gov, 608-224-4573.

Emerald ash borer generally begins its adult emergence when temperatures reach 450 growing degree days (base 50). Based on long-term forecasts, the 30-day extension will still be well before emergence.

To sign up for EAB Gov.delivery notices: http://datcp.wi.gov/Gov_Delivery/EAB/index.aspx

Imprelis Herbicide Damaged Plant Disposal

A letter from DNR Waste Management was recently sent to staff indicating that plant material affected by Imprelis will continue to be allowed to be landfilled for 2014.

“ This letter is to inform you that the Department of Natural Resources will continue to allow the landfill disposal of trees and plant material affected by Imprelis® for calendar year 2014. This extends the temporary, limited exception to our enforcement of the yard material landfill ban in s. 287.07(2), Wis. Stats., that we issued two years ago. Materials not affected by Imprelis® remain subject to the ban.”



For more information on Imprelis see:

http://hort.uwex.edu/sites/default/files/Imprelis%20factsheet%20Jull_0.pdf

Wisconsin Urban Forestry Insider March Edition

The Urban forestry program March newsletter is now available at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/UrbanForests/documents/insider/140312-UFInsider.pdf>

Welcome to Brian Wahl, DNR Regional Urban Forestry Coordinator, Fitchburg

Brian comes to us from We-energies where he served as a Regional Forester, overseeing the vegetation management program for half of their SE Wisconsin territory. Brian covers Columbia, Dane, Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland, Rock, and Sauk Counties. He can be reached at (608) 275-3256 or Brian.Wahl@wi.gov. Elizabeth Dierickx continues to assist Brian as an urban forestry specialist. For more information on the Urban Forestry program:

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



Brian Wahl, SCR Regional Urban Forestry Coordinator.

SOR Forest Health Assistance

Wisconsin DNR, Forest Health Protection Unit

March 2014

Contacts for DNR staff, municipal foresters, and forestry cooperators

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For a statewide forest health staff list:

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

Additional Program Web-based Resources:

WI DNR Forest Health web site:

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

Report Emerald Ash Borer:

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

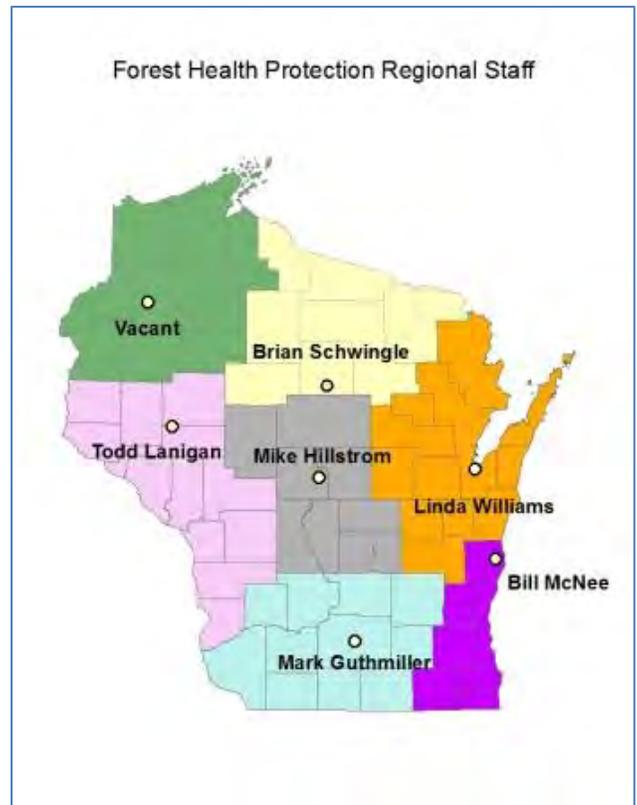
by email: dnrfrgypsymoth@wisconsin.gov

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

(It is also recommended to report gypsy moth to your local government)

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

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/>



[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.]