

Southern Region Forest Health Update

Wisconsin DNR, Forest Health Protection Unit

October 10, 2014 Vol. 11 No. 5

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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

New Detections

We have had four first county detections in Adams, Buffalo, Calumet and Oneida Counties since the last pest update was sent out in August. Ten Wisconsin counties have had first EAB confirmations so far in 2014. There have also been a number of new community detections in counties where EAB had already been confirmed. Recent detections are in:

- Adams Co. – Town of Monroe
- Buffalo Co. – Merrick State Park in the Town of Milton
- Calumet Co. – Sherwood
- Columbia Co. – Town of Dekorra
- Jefferson Co. – Fort Atkinson and Town of Palmyra
- Milwaukee Co. – St. Francis
- Monroe Co. – Wyeville
- Oneida Co. – Rhinelander
- Ozaukee Co. – Belgium
- Racine Co. – Town of Norway
- Washington Co. – Jackson



D-shaped EAB exit hole in the Town of Norway, Racine County.
Photo by Bill McNee.

-A complete list of confirmed community detections can be found online at:

<http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/articleassets/ConfirmedEABFindsInWisconsin.pdf>.

-To get the fastest updates on new EAB detections, sign up for email notifications:

http://datcp.wi.gov/Gov_Delivery/EAB/index.aspx.

Update EAB Quarantine

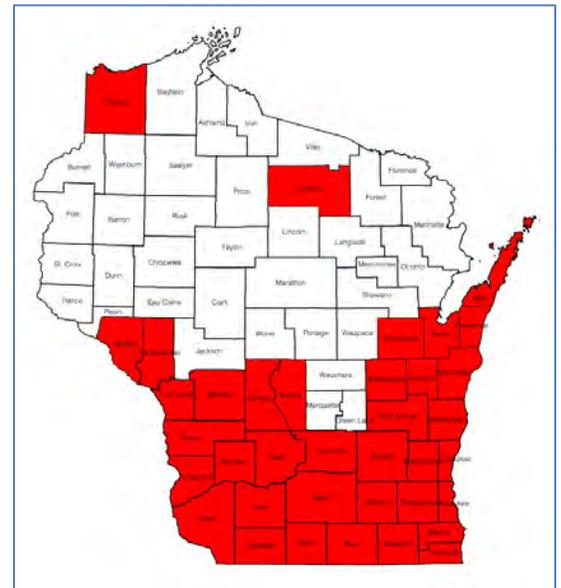
The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has added additional counties to the EAB quarantine area (see map at right). In eastern Wisconsin, Kewaunee, Manitowoc and Outagamie Counties were added to the quarantine area following the detection of EAB in nearby Sherwood. This means that ash materials from eastern Wisconsin can now be moved to processors in the Fox Valley, Green Bay or the Lakeshore counties without needing a compliance agreement. However, to reduce spread of EAB, a list of recommended practices were developed for guidance.

<http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/articleassets/Recommendations%20to%20reduce%20the%20spread%20of%20EAB.pdf>

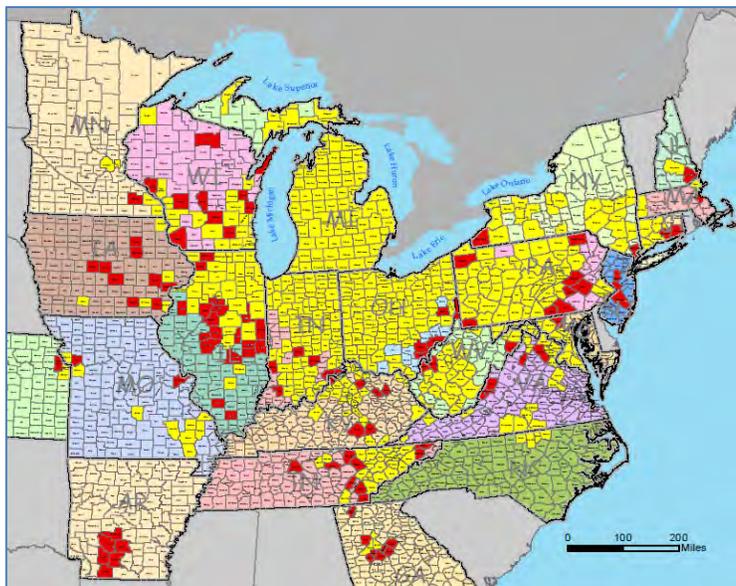
National Trends

Nationwide, 106 counties have had first EAB confirmations so far in 2014. This is a major increase from the same time last year, when there had been 66 first county detections as of early October.

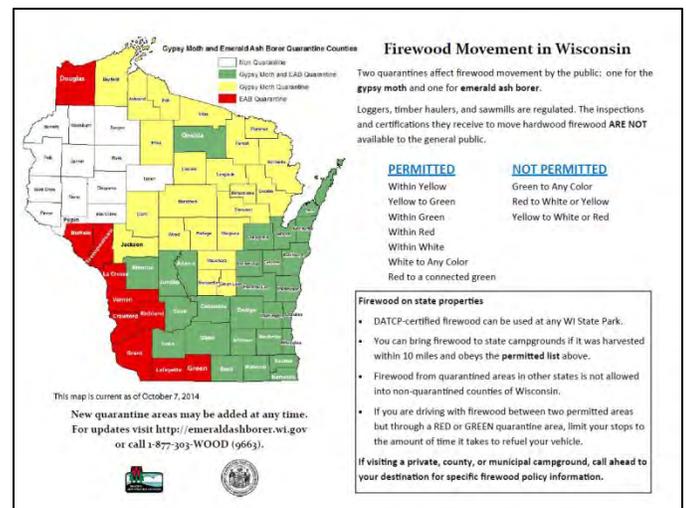
Illinois is by far the leader in new detections this year, with 19 new county detections. Owing to the recent detection of EAB in Rhineland, we have moved into second place with 10 new county detections (one county ahead of Iowa and Tennessee).



Current EAB quarantine area is shown in red.



Counties in red have had first EAB detections in 2014. Counties in yellow had earlier year detections. Modified from a map by USDA



Map of allowed firewood movement in Wisconsin as October 2014.

Firewood Movement:

It is a good idea to use firewood locally and not transport it a long distance. The risk of pest spread is reduced if using seasoned wood that has loose bark. An easy-to-use map of allowed firewood movement can be found here: <http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/articleassets/Firewood%20Movement%20in%20Wisconsin.pdf>. Be aware that this map will change in response to future county detections and quarantine changes.

Gypsy Moth –Bill McNee

Egg Mass Survey Time

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 on how to do egg mass surveys, visit www.gypsymoth.wi.gov. Information on oiling or removing egg masses is also available at this website. DNR staff received few reports of nuisance caterpillars or egg masses in 2014, and thus we expect populations to remain very low in 2015.



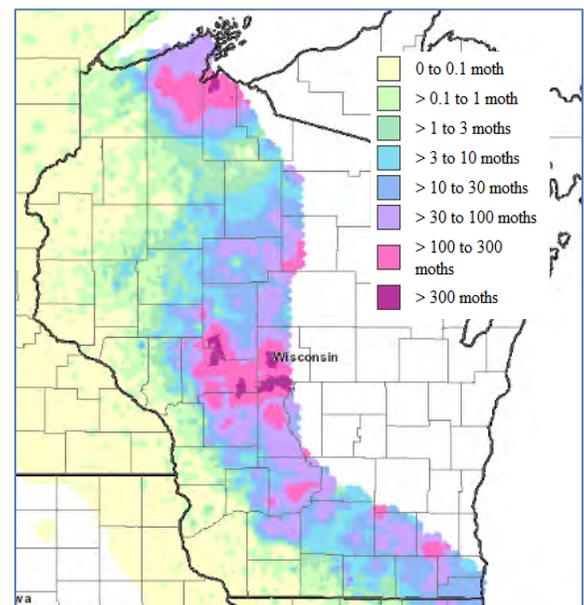
Gypsy moth egg masses. Photo by Bill McNee.

WI DATCP Trap Catch Results

Trappers from the Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) have finished taking down their grid of gypsy moth traps, and about 90,000 male moths were caught. Catch numbers are down dramatically from 2013, likely due to the very cold winter, cool spring and rainy weather. At the same time last year over 360,000 males had been caught (note: about 13,000 traps were hung this year vs. 18,000 last year). The highest numbers of moths were trapped in Jackson County (11,700), Bayfield County (10,700) and Monroe County (9,700). For comparison, at this time last year Bayfield County was in the lead with 84,000 moths.

Gypsy Moth Suppression Program Applications

Applications for the 2014-15 DNR gypsy moth suppression program are due by Friday, December 5 of this year for spraying in the spring of 2015. The application form will soon be available online at www.gypsymoth.wi.gov. A list of county and municipal gypsy moth contacts is also available at this website. If you decide to participate in the suppression program, please let Mark Guthmiller or Bill McNee know in advance of the December deadline (mark.guthmiller@wisconsin.gov or bill.mcnee@wisconsin.gov). If an area is thinking of participating in the DNR suppression program to spray in 2015, oil the masses or wait until this December to remove them so that surveyors can determine if an area should be sprayed.



Map of 2014 gypsy moth trap catches showing highest numbers in dark red. Areas in white were not trapped.

Privately-Organized Aerial Treatments for Forest Pests

The DNR guide to setting up privately-organized aerial spraying for forest pests, and a list of aerial applicators that can be hired to spray, can be found online at:

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

Beech Scale –Bill McNee

This fall we have been revisiting sites in eastern Wisconsin where beech scale, the insect associated with beech bark disease, was lab-confirmed in 2010 and 2011. Surprisingly, we are not finding any noticeable scale population buildup that would be a likely start of beech bark disease. Scale populations continue to be very low and hard to detect. To date, beech bark disease is only known to occur in Door County even though beech scale is widespread in the Wisconsin range of American Beech. More information about beech scale and beech bark disease can be found online at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/foresthealth/beechnbarkdisease.html>. If you see this white ‘wool’ on a beech tree in the southern counties, please contact Mark Guthmiller or Bill McNee.

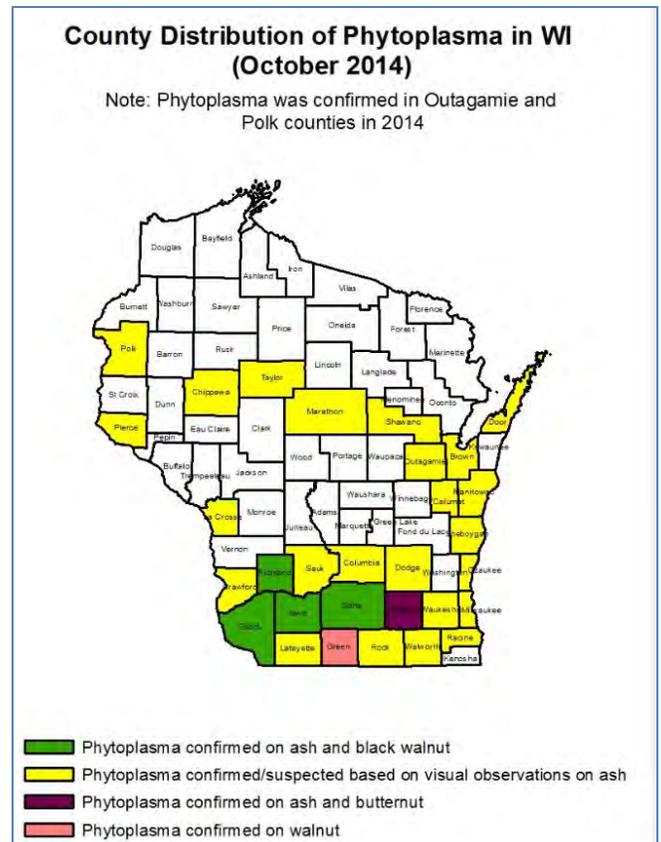


White ‘wool’ of beech scale seen at high populations. This level of beech scale has not yet been seen in southeast Wisconsin. Photo by Bill McNee.

Phytoplasma (Yellows) Test Results

Samples of trees suspected with possible phytoplasma disease were collected in mid-summer and sent to a private lab for testing. DNR forest pathologist, Kyoko Scanlon, reported: “Based on the results of the phytoplasma genetic test conducted this summer, the phytoplasma county distribution list was updated. Please note that phytoplasma was confirmed for the first time in Outagamie and Polk counties in 2014. Phytoplasma (ash yellows) was detected on white ash in Polk Co. and on green ash in Outagamie Co.”

In addition to the two new county reports of phytoplasma on ash that Kyoko reported, we had two new locations confirmed with phytoplasma on walnut in previously confirmed counties (Richland and Dane County). Phytoplasma was also confirmed on deer browse ash saplings in Sauk County. It is unknown whether deer could possibly be involved in transmitting phytoplasma via browsing. It is possible the saplings were infected prior to



browse and the symptom proliferation was due to mechanical injury caused by browsing. We often see a proliferation of similar symptomatic sprouting on cut stumps of infected ash. Further investigations may be warranted to determine if there is any role in phytoplasma transmission by deer. Leafhopper sucking insects are considered the primary vector of phytoplasma in ash trees.



Deer browsed ash sapling exhibiting phytoplasma symptoms. Lab testing confirmed the presence of phytoplasma.



A black walnut sapling exhibiting phytoplasma symptoms. Lab testing confirmed the presence of phytoplasma.

Scarlet Oak Sawfly

In late summer, a Richland County plantation experienced heavy defoliation (skeletonized leaves) by the scarlet oak sawfly. The planted red oaks were almost completely eaten. This “slug” sawfly is a native species that can periodically build to damaging levels. Injury is mainly cosmetic but repeated attacks may add stress to young trees. For more information:

http://na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest_al/sawfly/sawfly.htm



Red oak leaves skeletonized by the scarlet oak sawfly. Sawfly “slug” feeding (left).

Miscellaneous Topics and Observations

Hedgehogs and Chinkapins

On a site visit to Rock County earlier this summer, regional urban forestry coordinator, Brian Wahl and I encountered a Chinkapin oak. One particular leaf had an interesting gall which I believe is the hedgehog gall caused by a small “cynipid wasp”.

This however brought up a question I have not thought about before. **Is Chinkapin oak in the red or white oak subgroup?** The general ID characteristic I use to distinguish between the red oak group and the white oak group is: “if it is a pointed tipped leaf it is in the red oak group and if it is round tipped leaf it is in the white oak group”.

Well, even though the Chinkapin oak has saw tooth like teeth it is considered in the white oak subgroup. This helps to explain the hedgehog gall on the leaf.

For more information on hedgehog galls: <http://bugguide.net/node/view/425655>

For more information on the Chinkapin oak:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/EndangeredResources/Plants.asp?mode=detail&SpecCode=PDFAG053A0>



Cynipid Wasps on Bur Oak

In the April NOR Forest Health Update, Linda Williams had an article on cynipid wasps attacking swamp white oak and subsequent damage by woodpeckers going after the larvae under the bark. Reports of damage were from Appleton, Oak Creek, and the Twin Cities. In September a bur oak sample (possibly a cross with swamp white oak) was brought in from Green County that the woodpeckers had apparently done a lot of damage to. Three trees were apparently impacted. Turns out woodpeckers were also going after larvae of cynipid wasps. For more information see Linda’s write up:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/documents/2014/ForestHealthNE-Apr14.pdf>



Numerous small cynipid wasps under bark of oak branch. Woodpeckers did extensive damage going after the larvae.

Poison Ivy Leaf Miner – *Cameraria guttifinitella*

For some reason I cannot find a lot of research conducted on this critter. This is a close cousin to the *Cameraria* species that cause leaf mines in bur oaks. I had a short write up on this relative in the October 2009 SOR Forest Health update. If interested I can send you the issue as it is no longer on-line.



Suspect poison ivy leaf miner, *Cameraria guttifinitella*

Invasive Plants Program Staff

Tom Boos, past Invasive Plants Program Coordinator, has left DNR to find greener less invaded pastures. Until a replacement is on board the following staff can assist with questions on various programs:

-WMA-PFGP Program - contact Mike Putnam, Michael.Putnam@wisconsin.gov, 608-266-7596
Weed Management Area-Private Forestry Grant Program: <http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/WMA.html>

-NR40 and Pesticides – contact Kelly Kearns, Kelly.Kearns@wisconsin.gov, 608-267-5066
NR 40: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/classification.html>

-Outreach – contact Bernadette.Williams@wisconsin.gov, 608-266-0624

-Other – contact Becky Gray, Rebecca.Gray@wisconsin.gov, 608-275-3273

In The News:

-White fringe tree suspected to be a host to emerald ash borer: <http://phys.org/news/2014-10-emerald-ash-borer-tree.html>

-Asian gypsy moth intercepted in Honolulu, Hawaii (Note that unlike the European female gypsy moth, the Asian female gypsy moth can fly): <http://khon2.com/2014/10/08/asian-gypsy-moth-egg-masses-intercepted-at-honolulu-port/>

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



“Suspect” Jack-O-Lantern mushroom, *Omphalotus olearius*

An old oak stump on the office grounds had a mass of mushrooms. Kyoko Scanlon did a little investigating, and although not confirmed, it may be the Jack-O-Lantern Mushroom. With Halloween approaching you may want to read more about the Jack-O-Lantern fungus and how it got its name. Visit Tom Volk’s webpage.

http://botit.botany.wisc.edu/toms_fungi/oct97.html

SOR Forest Health Assistance

Wisconsin DNR, Forest Health Protection Unit

October 2014

Contacts for DNR staff, municipal foresters, and forestry cooperators

<p>Mark Guthmiller Forest Health Specialist Wisconsin DNR 3911 Fish Hatchery Road Fitchburg, WI 53711 Phone: (608) 275-3223 Email: Mark.Guthmiller@wisconsin.gov Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, Richland, Rock, and Sauk</p>	<p>Bill McNee Forest Health Specialist Wisconsin DNR 1155 Pilgrim Rd. Plymouth, WI 53073 Phone: 920-893-8543 Email: Bill.McNee@wisconsin.gov Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha</p>
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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/>

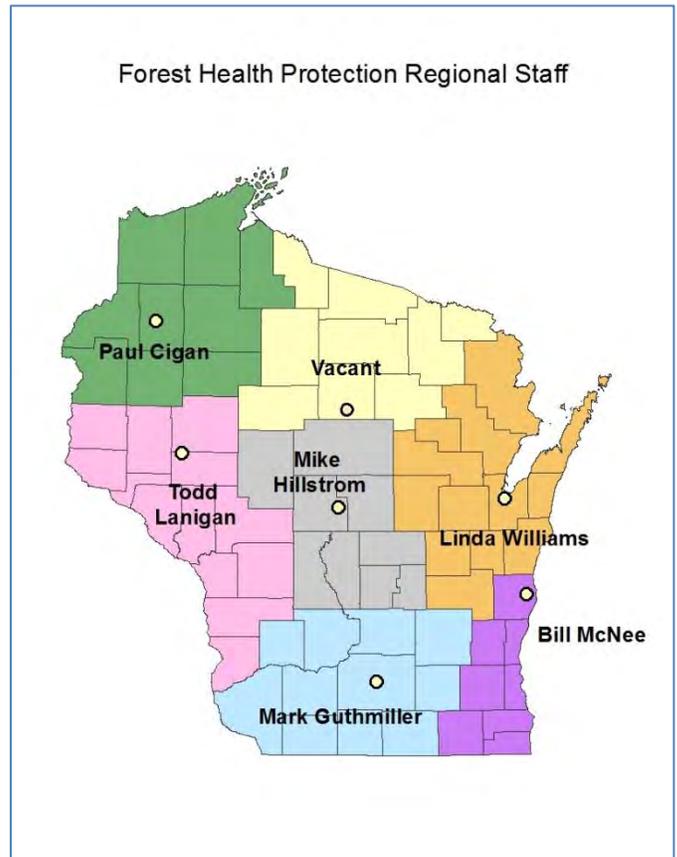
Report Emerald Ash Borer:

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: dnrfgypsymoth@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.]