Southern Wisconsin Forest Health Update

Wisconsin DNR, Forest Health Protection Unit

May 15th, 2015 Vol. 12 No. 2

Topics in this update

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

Emerald Ash Borer– Bill McNee

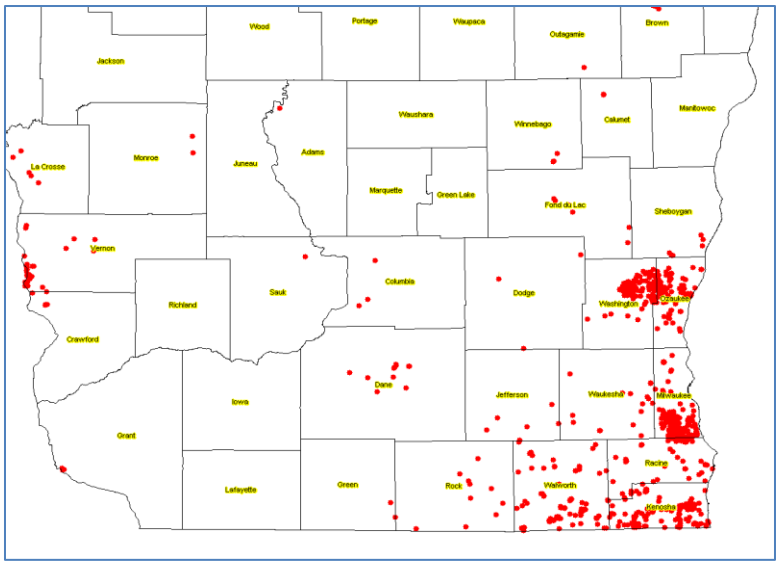
New EAB detections: Since the last pest update in March, we have had a number of new detections:

First county detection:

- Green County, in the Town of Decatur (included in quarantine area in 2014)

First municipal detection in a county where EAB has already been found:

- Dane Co. – Town of Middleton
- Dodge Co. – Beaver Dam
- Door Co. – Town of Nasewaupee
- Fond du Lac Co. – City of Fond du Lac, Town of Lamartine
- Milwaukee Co. – Hales Corners
- Sheboygan Co. – Oostburg
- Waukesha Co. – Elm Grove

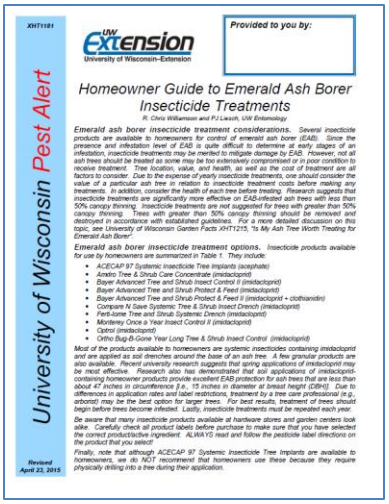


EAB detections in southern Wisconsin as of May 2015.

A full list of detections is available online at: http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/articleassets/ConfirmedEABFindsInWisconsin.pdf.

Insecticide treatments:

UW Extension has recently revised its two guides to EAB insecticide treatments for high-value ash trees, for both homeowners and professional pesticide applicators. The documents can be downloaded from the Wisconsin EAB webpage, www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov. A list of known detections can also be found on this website. Ash trees are at highest risk of being infested if they are within 15 miles of a known EAB infestation, although trees farther away could also warrant treatment.


University of Wisconsin Pest Alert

Extension
University of Wisconsin–Extension

Provided to you by:

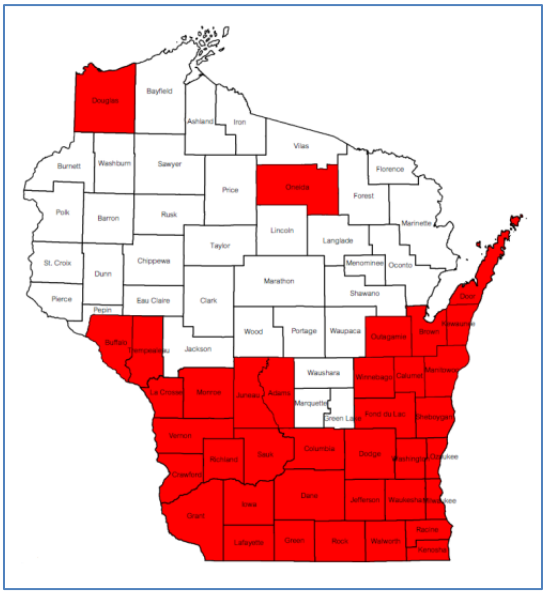
Homeowner Guide to Emerald Ash Borer Insecticide Treatments

Sample UWEX insecticide brochure.

How many trees to branch sample for EAB detection?: A new study from the Canadian Forest Service may help you plan your municipal EAB surveys: http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/pubwarehouse/pdfs/35977.pdf

Minnesota silviculture study in black ash stands: A recent media article gave an update on a silvicultural study designed to simulate EAB mortality in black ash stands. Four acres of black ash were artificially girdled to simulate EAB mortality and another four acres were clearcut. Within two years, the sites turned into grass-dominated wet sites. Small gaps with a replanting of other suitable species seemed to be the best way to keep the site forested. Read more online at: http://www.mprnews.org/story/2015/03/09/ash-borer-research.

Wisconsin EAB quarantine: For more information or to confirm the most up-to-date map of the EAB quarantine visit the WI DATCP regulatory page: http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/article.jsp?topicid=20



Counties quarantined for EAB are shown in red

Avon Bottoms State Wildlife Area Tree Planting

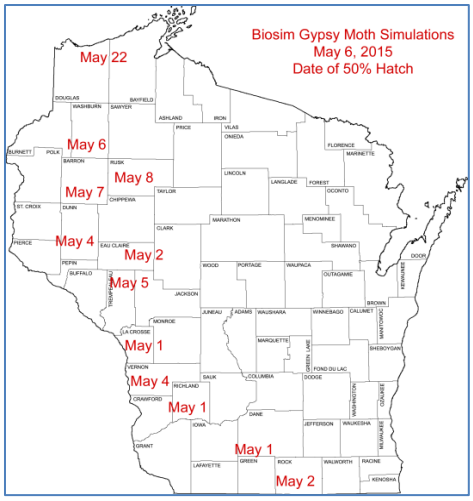
Emerald ash borer was first confirmed in the southeast end of the Avon Bottoms of southern Rock County in March of 2014. Last year emerald ash borer was confirmed on the northwest portion of this property. Since 2014, efforts have been underway to under-plant portions of the bottomland hardwood forest on this property in advance of widespread ash mortality. DNR Forester, Nick Koltz, reported a successful spring planting this year on approximately 160 acres of bottom land hardwoods. A crew of 10 people hand planted 119,700 seedlings with a mix of swamp white oak, basswood, river birch and sycamore.

DNR forester, Nick Koltz, reported approximately 160 acres of bottomland hardwoods at the Avon Bottoms State Wildlife Area was recently under-planted with 119,700 seedlings. The empty boxes show the end result of this planting effort!

Gypsy Moth– Bill McNee

Gypsy moth development: This spring's first gypsy moth hatch was reported in Rock County, Town of Beloit on April 24. Data from previous years indicates that it's an average date in terms of hatch timing. Predictions of peak hatching using Biosim software matched the field data in Beloit to within a few days (around May 2-4). Biosim predicts that we are now past peak hatch everywhere but far northern Wisconsin. Due to this timing, the Suppression and Slow-The-Spread gypsy moth spray programs will begin spraying in mid-May. At present, we are not expecting significant problems with gypsy moth this year, although there are a few localized populations being reported.

Gypsy moth caterpillars hatching from an egg mass.



Map of predicted peak hatch dates using Biosim software.

Homeowner control tactics: Homeowners who are interested in reducing gypsy moth populations should now put up sticky barrier bands on host trees with more than a few egg masses on them, and put up burlap bands in the next two or three weeks. Additional management options for homeowners and woodlot owners are available at www.gypsymoth.wi.gov.

Homeowners considering insecticide treatments this spring should contact an arborist or tree service as soon as possible if they have not already done so. 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 at garden centers, hardware stores and large retailers.

DNR gypsy moth suppression treatment update: The Wisconsin DNR, in coordination with WI DATCP and Rock County staff, will be planning to treat a single 41 acre block in the town of Beloit this spring. A single treatment will be conducted around mid-May. The public interested in knowing the specific date of spraying can call 1-800-642-6684 for daily updates on spray plans or sign up for email notifications at: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/GypsyMothSignUp.html

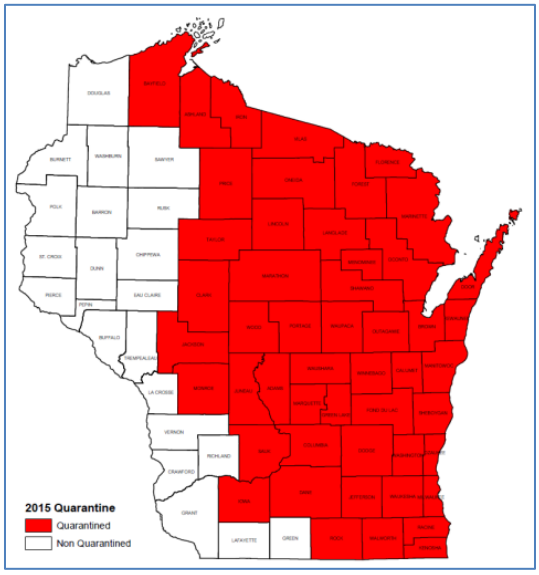
Proposed 2015 gypsy moth treatments will occur in these counties. Counties in yellow have STS treatments, and Rock County in blue has both STS and suppression

Slow-The-Spread (STS) gypsy moth treatment update: The Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has announced its planned 2015 STS gypsy moth treatments that will use a bacterial insecticide, viral insecticide or pheromone mating disruptor. Beginning in mid-May and continuing through late July or early August, DATCP plans to treat selected areas in western Wisconsin using low-flying planes. Yellow counties on the map have sites that are targeted for treatment (note: the entire county is not being treated). Sites to be treated have been identified as having increasing populations of gypsy moth.

Counties scheduled to receive aerial treatments are: Barron, Bayfield, Buffalo, Burnett, Chippewa, Crawford, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Green, La Crosse, Lafayette, Monroe, Polk, Richland, Rock, Rusk, Sawyer, Trempealeau, Vernon and Washburn. More information about the sites and treatments is available online at: http://gypsymoth.wi.gov/. Click on the county and then on the treatment site to see detailed maps. Details are available at http://datcp.wi.gov/news/?ID=1238.

Taylor County added to the gypsy moth quarantine area: Taylor County was added to the gypsy moth quarantine area in mid-March, becoming the 50th Wisconsin county to be quarantined. Under the quarantine rules, it is illegal to move or transport any wood product or outdoor household articles that have been exposed to gypsy moth from a quarantined area to a non-quarantined area without inspection or certification. For more information, visit: http://datcp.wi.gov/Environment/Gypsy_Moth/Quarantine_Regulations/?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1.

The guide to allowable firewood movement has been updated to reflect the addition of Taylor County. It can be downloaded at: http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/articleassets/Firewood%20Movement%20in%20Wisconsin.pdf.



Gypsy moth quarantine area as of May 2015

Phytophthora Root Rot on White Pine

A landowner in southeastern Dodge County reported some scattered dying white pine in a localized area of his planting. The impacted white pines varied in size from about 4' to 15' tall. This area had experienced extended standing water back in 2008. WI DATCP Plant Industry Laboratory was able to confirm *Phytopthora hedraiandra* from one tree root sample using sequencing technology. This species is apparently a close species to *Phytopthora cactorum,* a known root rot pathogen. Thanks to the WI DATCP Plant Industry Laboratory staff for assistance with this diagnosis. The University of Wisconsin Extension also recently shared a new publication on Phytophthora root rot on Christmas trees that gives a nice overview of Phytophthora root rot and management practices: http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/pddc/files/Fact_Sheets/FC_PDF/Phytophthora_Root_Rot_of_Christmas_Trees.pdf

A dying white pine showing no evidence of blister rust. A nearby white pine was confirmed with Phytopthora root rot.

Miscellaneous Topics and Observations

2015 Invasive Plant Suppression and Rapid Response Grants – Mike Putnum
DNR's Forestry Division and Natural Heritage Conservation Bureau jointly awarded $27,000 to internal and external partners for the control and eradication of invasive plants in Wisconsin. Natural Heritage Conservation provided $6,000 of suppression funds for work on non-forest invasive plants. The Forest Health program provided $20,000 of suppression funds for control of invasive plants on forested land and $1,300 of rapid response funds from the Weed Management Area - Private Forest Grant Program (WMA-PFGP) for work in non-industrial private forests.

The funds are directed toward controlling early detection invasive plants, primarily NR 40 prohibited species, species not yet listed on NR 40 and restricted species found in new outposts.

Sixteen species are being addressed in sixteen counties throughout Wisconsin. Work is being conducted on private lands, in two state parks (Devils Lake and Tower Hill), several state natural areas and at DNR's MacKenzie Environmental Center.

Work will be completed by the end of FY15 – June 30, 2015. Later, final reports will be submitted by August 31, 2015 so grant recipients have time to monitor their control efforts and report those findings.

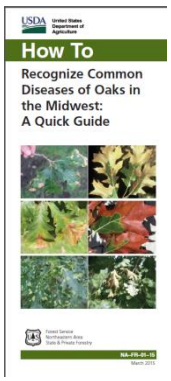
Work has already been completed on eradicating princess tree *Paulownia tomentosa* in three locations in Sauk County. Two locations were on private land and one of these was adjacent to Devils Lake State Park. The third location was on the bank of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway.

Suppression funds were last awarded in 2013. The Weed Management Area - Private Forest Grant Program started in 2012 to foster the formation of cooperative invasive species management associations and support their work on controlling invasive species. Up to 20% of the WMA-PFGP funds can be made available for rapid response work and these initial awards comprise 5% of available funds.

For more information on WMA-PFGP visit: WMA-PFGP Program

NR40 Invasive Species Rule
NR40 Invasive Species Rule changes are now official. Read more online at http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/classification.html. Forest health changes include:

- Beech scale is off the list since it has naturally spread through most of the range of American beech
- EAB has been down listed to Restricted (no change in how we handle it)
- Mountain pine beetle, walnut twig beetle, and the pathogen causing thousand cankers disease have been added to the Prohibited list



New oak problems brochure available from the US Forest Service
http://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/howtos/HowToRecognizeCommonDiseasesOaks.pdf. If you would like a paper copy, contact Mark or Bill.

Other stories in the news

- Walnut twig beetle detected in Indiana: http://www.batesvilleheraldtribune.com/news/local_news/walnut-twig-beetle-detected-in-franklin-county/article_b2f93e27-4fa5-595d-b5fe-f4a84b966dff.html
- Southern pine beetle continues to be detected farther north, now in Connecticut: http://www.courant.com/breaking-news/hc-destructive-pine-beetle-20150504-story.html

- Hybridizing invasive termites in Florida: http://www.foxnews.com/science/2015/04/01/termite-superswarm-threatens-south-florida/

- Tick-borne Powassan virus: http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2015/04/08/doctors-say-tick-borne-powassan-virus-is-worse-than-lyme-disease/ (Wisconsin Department of Health information on Powasssan virus: https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/tickborne/powassan.htm)

- Spotted lanternfly eradication plans in Pennsylvania: http://www.goodfruit.com/lanternfly-targeted-for-eradication/. To date, more than 20,000 of the insect's egg masses have been removed: http://blogs.mcall.com/master_gardeners/2015/05/look-for-spotted-lanternfly-nymphs-this-spring.html

A "Buzzard" observed circling a stand of ash trees dying from EAB

SOD Forest Health Assistance
Wisconsin DNR, Forest Health Protection Unit
May 2015

Contacts for DNR staff, municipal foresters, and forestry cooperators

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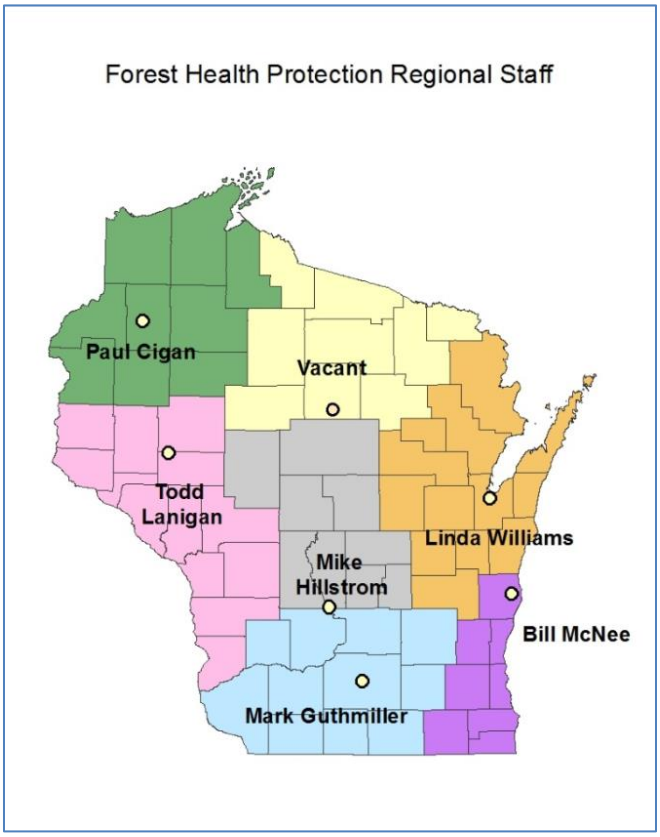
For a statewide forest health staff list:
http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/staff.html

Additional Program Web-based Resources:
WI DNR Forest Health web site:
http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/

Report Emerald Ash Borer in Unconfirmed Counties:
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.]