

INDIANA

Emerald ash borer is back in Vigo County

<http://wthitv.com/2014/11/21/emerald-ash-borer-is-back-in-vigo-county/>

By Patsy Kelly WTHI, November 23, 2014, 8:30 pm

VIGO COUNTY, Ind. (WTHI) – The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has made a comeback in the Wabash Valley. The Vigo County Parks Department made the discovery this week at Fowler Park in Vigo County. Unfortunately, this means many park workers will be wielding a chainsaw over the several couple of years.

This means the landscape at this park will change dramatically over the next year or so. Park officials say they did what they could to prepare for the inevitable.

“We’ve done what we can over the last year to prepare for it. I treated a hundred and twenty-five trees this summer. But unfortunately, the ones we did not treat are more than likely going to die and pretty quick,” said Adam Grossman, Vigo County Parks Department.

The only silver lining is every tree cut down will be replaced by one new tree planted and by more mixed species.

This will also cut down on the borer destroying any more trees.

Official hopes to save park's trees from ash borer

<http://www.fox28.com/story/27465810/official-hopes-to-save-parks-trees-from-ash-borer>

Associated Press, Nov 24, 2014 8:30 AM EST

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (AP) - Crews have cut down more than a dozen trees in a park near Terre Haute that have been infected by the emerald ash borer.

Vigo County parks officials have chemically treated 125 ash trees in Fowler Park in hopes of saving them from damage by the invasive beetle that's killed many thousands for trees in several states.

Assistant park superintendent Adam Grossman tells the Tribune-Star (<http://bit.ly/1tpN1D3>) he spotted the infestation last week and had several of the ash trees in the park's camping area cut down.

Grossman says the chemical treatment of nearly half the park's ash trees cost about \$5,000 and was all the department could afford. He says the ash borer has already infested trees on the Indiana State University campus and other spots around Terre Haute.

Information from: Tribune-Star, <http://www.tribstar.com>

MINNESOTA

Let it Grow: Pruning young trees requires science and foresight

http://www.postbulletin.com/life/lifestyles/let-it-grow-pruning-young-trees-requires-science-and-foresight/article_8df655ef-8047-52f2-8ee5-94bbebcaa0d1.html

Post-Bulletin (MN), Friday, November 21, 2014 7:40 pm

Thanks, Dan

Thanks for the question. This is a very typical question from clients after I have pruned young trees for them. The pruning decisions are made on a number of criteria that will vary from tree to tree. However, the pruning of every young tree should follow fundamentals that are based on tree biology and spatial relations to other landscape features. Your tree and question are a good example to explain some of the philosophy.

The larger branches were removed for one or more of the following reasons depending on the branch. They had included bark and poor attachment. Smaller branches with better attachment and better size proportionate to the main trunk were saved for permanent branches. These will quickly fill out the void where larger branches were removed.

Some were too low for their orientation to the house or trees to the north. For example, the larger branch on the house side would have eventually interfered with the garage roof and it had poor attachment. Removing it now and leaving smaller branches minimizes wound size and avoids future interference with the garage roof.

Lower branches were left because I was approaching 20 to 25 percent of live canopy being removed. To stay within the threshold, I leave the small lower branches as temporaries. This also minimizes wound size by removing larger temporary branches first. I just raised it high enough to avoid mowing conflicts next summer.

Small lower branches are also left to maintain branch distribution on the upper two-thirds of the tree. This promotes good trunk development and disperses wind load. If too many lower branches are removed wind load is too high in the tree and excess stress is placed on the trunk, causing bending or breakage.

On young trees, the goal is to identify the height of the lowest branch (usually 10 to 15 feet up). Below that point, all branches are temporary. I remove the largest temporaries first and leave the smaller temporaries to minimize wound size and still maintain proper branch distribution.

From the lowest permanent branch up, I look for good branch attachment, size in proportion to the main trunk, distribution on the main trunk and if they will interfere with anything in the future. This approach maintains the best branches as permanent canopy and also trains the direction of crown development to avoid conflicts with buildings or other landscape features.

Thanks, Doug

Doug Courneya is owner of Courneya Horticulture Services. Doug has bachelor's and master's degrees in horticulture and is a certified arborist with more than 25 years of experience. Send plant and garden questions to life@postbulletin.com or email Doug directly at doug@dhort.com.

Minnesota researchers race to stay ahead of mountain pine beetles

http://www.twincities.com/localnews/ci_26999586/minnesota-researchers-race-stay-ahead-mountain-pine-beetles

By STEVE KARNOWSKI Associated Press, November 23, 2014 - 12:41 pm

MINNEAPOLIS — The mountain pine beetle has devastated huge swaths of forest in the Rockies, and scientists fear the insects could threaten the majestic pines of Minnesota and states farther east someday.

Initial results from a three-year, \$250,000 research project by the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture back up some fears about the risk. There's no evidence that the insects have gained a beachhead in the state yet, but the researchers caution that they can't be sure that some pests aren't already hiding someplace, waiting until conditions are ripe to launch an attack. They're already established in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

"This is one problem that we have to take very, very seriously," said Brian Aukema, a forest entomologist at the university.

The scientists wanted to confirm in the first phase of the study whether the beetles would find the most common species of pines in Minnesota delicious and nutritious. Experiments this summer in the Black Hills show that they do, Aukema said.

Some dead mountain pine beetles were found in a shipment of logs to Minnesota two years ago. The initial screening of pheromone-baited traps placed across the state this year didn't turn up any living specimens, but a more detailed analysis hasn't been completed, said Mark Abrahamson, an entomologist with the state agriculture department.

Mountain pine beetles are the most devastating forest insect in North America. They've damaged almost 125 million acres of mature pine forests in the West, including 45 million acres in a current outbreak in Canada. Minnesota has around 191 million red, white and jack pines that are large enough for the insects to attack.

Cold winters historically have kept the beetles in check, but the trend toward warmer winters has fueled devastating outbreaks in the Rocky Mountains. So it's feared they could eventually reach the Upper Midwest and Great Lakes region, with serious damage to the Northwoods ecosystem, outdoor recreation and the forest products industry.

The researchers said there are two likely ways the beetles could reach Minnesota: via logs shipped from areas where the pest is established or by migrating along jack pines that stretch across Canada into northern Minnesota. There's little pine forest between Minnesota and the Black Hills, so the main threat from South Dakota would be imports of infested timber.



In this Aug. 8, 2013 photo provided by Derek Rosenberger, a stand of ponderosa pine in the Black Hills of South Dakota bears the attack by mountain pine. (AP Photo/Derek Rosenberger)

The insects kill by breeding in and tunneling through a tree's water-conducting tissues just under the bark. They can only breed in trees larger than 5 inches in diameter, and they're also unusual in that they actually need to kill a tree to reproduce. When the bugs are on the move in an outbreak they can travel 500 miles in a year if there's enough pine along the way. Their swarms can even turn up on Doppler radar.

Aukema and graduate student Derek Rosenberger did their research in the Black Hills this summer because they didn't want to risk bringing mountain pine beetles to Minnesota. So they sent freshly cut green logs from red, white, jack pine and Scotch pines from Minnesota to the Wheaton College Science Station near Rapid City, South Dakota, and exposed them to trap-caught live beetles. They found that the insects readily colonized the logs. They also confirmed that the male beetles were attracted to females that had tunneled into the logs.

The researchers will monitor the logs to see if the insects survive cold winters in Minnesota's pine species and how well they reproduce in them. Some logs will be returned to Minnesota over the winter for more study under secure conditions. They will also set out more traps in Minnesota to look for evidence beetles have arrived.

The beetles have some similarities with emerald ash borers in the way they kill trees. The borers have already devastated ash populations in the East and are becoming established in Minnesota. The researchers hope their work can help devise rapid response strategies for stopping its advance. "Unlike emerald ash borer, there is an effective trap and lure. Management of isolated, endemic populations may not be impossible — if we know they are there first," the researchers wrote in their funding request.

Online:

Minnesota Department of Agriculture Mountain Pine Beetle information:

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/insects/mpb.aspx>

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin may ease up on emerald ash borer invasive ranking

<https://www.dailyherald.com/article/20141122/news/141129437/>



The Wisconsin DNR wants to downgrade the tree-eating beetle's status from prohibited to restricted, acknowledging the pest has become too widespread to eradicate. The beetle has been found in 28 of the state's 72 counties, according to the DNR. University of Illinois entomology Professor James Appleby

By Todd Richmond Associated Press, 11/22/2014 9:19 AM

MADISON, Wis. -- The state Department of Natural Resources' board could add scores of organisms to Wisconsin's invasive species list next month in the first revisions to the catalog since it was created five years ago.

The DNR has proposed classifying 49 more species as prohibited, which means people can't sell, possess or transport them and must destroy them if they find them on their property. The agency also wants to list 32 other species as restricted, meaning people can't sell or move them but can possess them. Another notable change involves the notorious emerald ash borer. The DNR wants to downgrade the tree-eating beetle's status from prohibited to restricted, acknowledging the pest has become too widespread to eradicate. The beetle has been found in 28 of the state's 72 counties, according to the DNR.

"Having it listed as prohibited is completely ridiculous at this stage," said Andrea Diss-Torrance, the DNR's invasive insects program coordinator. "We can't really be expecting people to act upon every population they find because there's a lot of places in Wisconsin where that's pretty common." The state's invasive species list currently contains about 100 organisms, including the ash borer, zebra mussels, Asian carp and garlic mustard. Each one is cataloged as prohibited or restricted. DNR officials say they always intended to update the list established in 2009. The agency has been working on revisions with the Wisconsin Invasive Species Council, the nursery industry and species assessment groups since 2012.

New prohibited species would include killer algae, a species of seaweed native to the Indian Ocean; water lettuce, a floating plant some experts believe originated in Africa; the walnut twig beetle, a creature native to the southwestern United States and Mexico that spreads a fungus that kills black walnut trees; and killer shrimp, an eastern European crustacean.

Most newly restricted organisms would be plants. Some of the species, such as various offshoots of Japanese barberry, are popular in home and commercial landscaping, sparking concern among the nursery industry that growers would lose some of their most profitable species.

The DNR responded by giving growers five years to sell down their inventories of restricted trees and shrubs and three years to sell out their restricted woody vines and herbaceous plants, or plants that lack a permanent stem. The phaseout provisions convinced the Wisconsin Green Industry Federation, an umbrella organization that represents nursery growers, landscape contractor, sod producers and Christmas tree farmers, to support the package.

The DNR's board is scheduled to vote on the changes Dec. 18 in Madison.

Wisconsin now #1 in wood furniture manufacturing

<http://wtaq.com/news/articles/2014/nov/24/wisconsin-now-1-in-wood-furniture-manufacturing/>

WSAU, Monday, November 24, 2014 2:40 a.m. CST by Larry Lee

MADISON, Wis. -- Wisconsin is number one in cheese, cranberries, and now something else that starts with a homegrown Wisconsin resource.

Wisconsin is now number one in the nation for manufacturing wood furniture. Several other states are seeing a decline in furniture making, but the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics census of employment and wages shows the Badger State up slightly over last year, with 4,144 jobs in the non-upholstered wood furniture industry.

The economic impact of Wisconsin's forests is much bigger than that. Paul DeLong is the chief state forester with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

He says Wisconsin's public and private lands generate forest products valued at nearly \$22.9 billion dollars each year, supporting more than 59,000 jobs.

Along with all of that wooden furniture, Wisconsin's forests supply flooring manufacturers, baseball bat makers, paper mills, and about 185 million cubic feet of saw timber every year, which is enough to frame about 139,000 homes.



Wooden furniture - Joe Mabel [CC-BY-SA-3.0

(<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>)], via Wikimedia Commons. State forest image