

DNR and DATCP Working Together to Protect Wisconsin's Forest Resource



DNR-DATCP Joint Board Meeting Presentation:

Becky Gray – Division of Forestry – Bureau of Applied Forestry – DNR

Renee Pinski – Division of Agricultural Resource Management – Bureau of Plant Industry – DATCP

November 13, 2025

1

INTRODUCTION: DNR FOREST HEALTH



FOCUS ON
FOREST
CONCERNS



INSECTS,
DISEASES, AND
INVASIVE
PLANTS



IDENTIFICATION AND
MANAGEMENT
RECOMMENDATIONS



APPLIED
MANAGEMENT
RESEARCH



OUTREACH
AND
EDUCATION



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION



2

INTRODUCTION: DATCP PLANT INDUSTRY BUREAU

Protecting Wisconsin's agricultural and horticultural industries and native plants

- Programs include inspection, export certification, quarantine, survey, and control
- Ensuring compliance with laws and regulations involving plant pests, honey bees, nursery plants, Christmas trees, firewood, and seed



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

3

COLLABORATION IN SHARED GOALS AND STATUTE

s. 26.30 Forest insects and diseases; department jurisdiction; procedure.

- (2) Powers...The action of the department under sub. (4) shall be coordinated with the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection in accordance with s. 20.901...



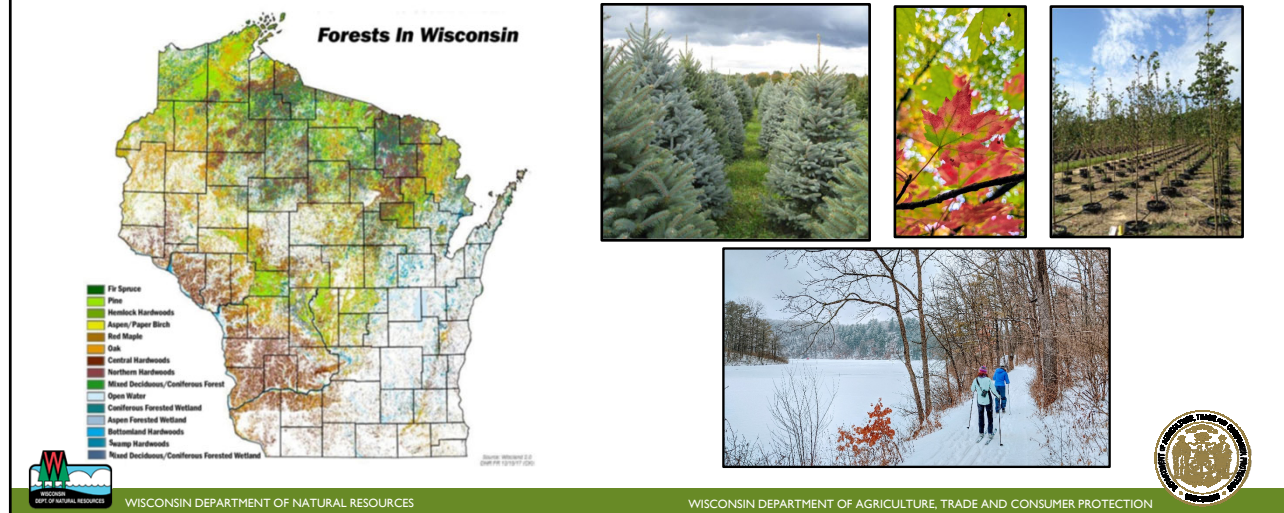
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

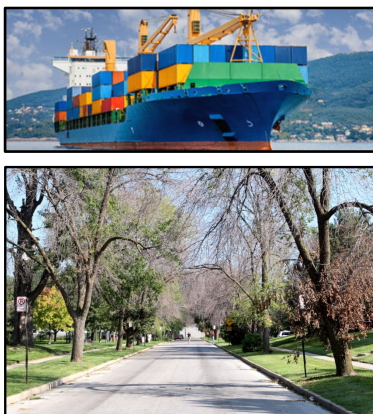
4

WHAT WE ARE PROTECTING



5

INVASIVE FOREST PESTS ARE INTRODUCED FROM OTHER AREAS



- Invasive species: non-native species that can cause economic, environmental, and/or human health harm
- 455 forest pests introduced to the U.S., largely via global trade (Liebhold et al. 2017)
- Local governments and landowners incur the most costs
- Substantial loss in timber revenue

6

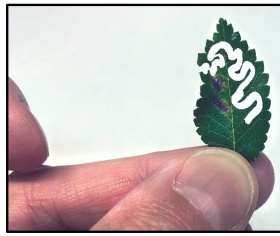
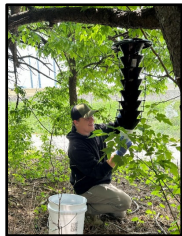
SURVEY: DETECTION AND MONITORING

Early detection and monitoring surveys promote rapid response and inform regulations and management activities

- Coordinated trapping efforts avoid duplication
- Leverage travel resources and personnel time
- Ensure statewide data reporting and sharing



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

7

SURVEY: LABORATORY DIAGNOSTICS

Laboratory diagnostics support field surveys through pest identification and confirmation

- Some shared pathogens of interest to both agencies but different customers
- Share technical knowledge and laboratory techniques used for sample diagnostics
- Leverage areas of expertise

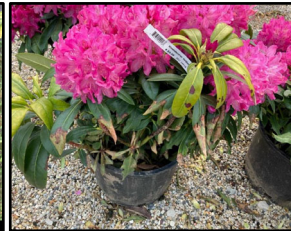


WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Matthew Borden, Bartlett Tree
Experts, Bugwood.org

5620044



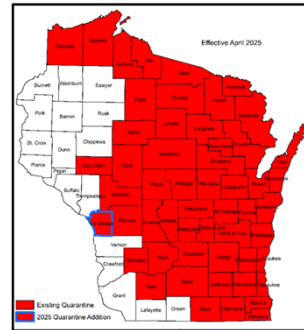
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

8

CONTROL: SPONGY MOTH

Aerial spray of spongy moth satisfies different agency goals with the same treatment approach

- DATCP Slow the Spread protects public and private lands in western Wisconsin
- DNR suppression protects shade trees and park experience in high use recreation areas



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

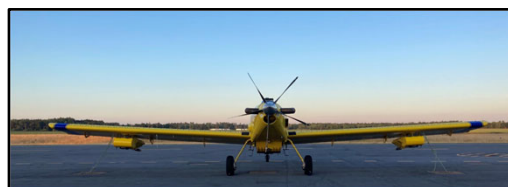
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

9

CONTROL: SPONGY MOTH

Benefits gained for the state through collaboration

- Efficiencies with planning, contract sharing, staff time
- DNR aeronautic resources
- Consistent public messaging
- High level of safety achieved



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

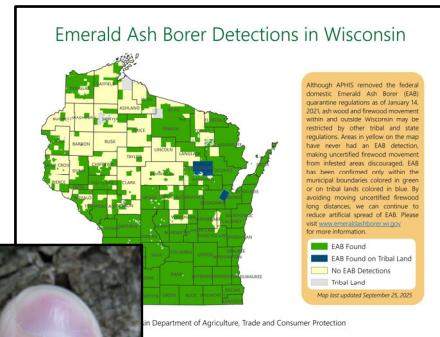


10

CONTROL: EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB)

Quarantine slowed the spread of EAB, now focused on post-invasion management

- USDA-APHIS National Biological Control Program
- DATCP and DNR track EAB infestations statewide
- DATCP issues permits to release parasitoids
- DNR assesses release sites on state and municipal lands
- DNR and APHIS conduct releases



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION



11

OUTREACH: AGENCY COORDINATION

Public reporting helps with early detection and reducing spread

- Social media, press releases, and newsletter articles about new and emerging pests
- Share booth space and/or resources at outreach events
- Customer service hotlines



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

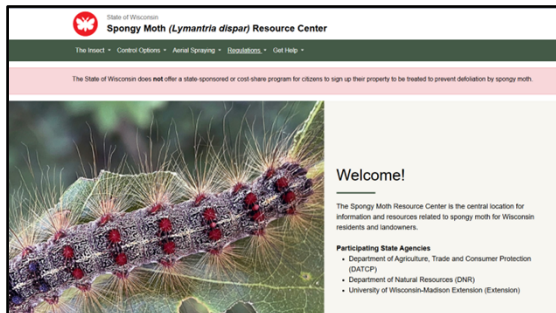
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION



12

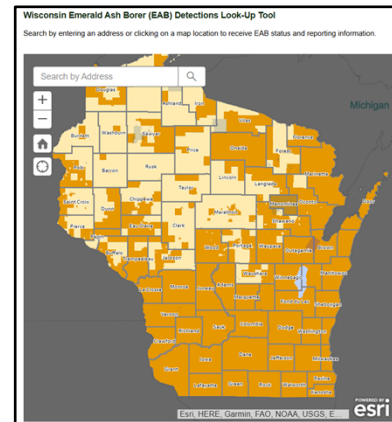
OUTREACH: ONLINE RESOURCES

Spongy Moth Resource Center



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Tracking Emerald Ash Borer Municipal Detections



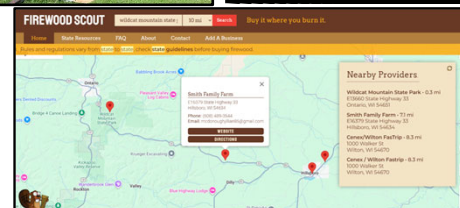
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

13

CASE STUDY: FIREWOOD

Invasive species pathway prevention

- Pests easily spread by firewood
- Keep it local; DNR prohibits firewood entering state parks from further than 10 miles away
- DATCP has firewood certification program
- Partner with and promote Firewood Scout and DontMoveFirewood.org



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION



14

CASE STUDY: HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID



Protecting hemlock resource from the invasive hemlock woolly adelgid

- Over 80% of native hemlocks are in northeast Wisconsin, with remaining stands in central and coastal areas of eastern Wisconsin
- Ecological benefits are many
- Hemlock tree and shrub cultivars offered by the nursery industry



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION



15

CASE STUDY: HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID

Current focus on preparedness, improved survey, and targeted outreach

- Specialty Crop Block Grant looking into innovative survey methods for early detection
- Outreach focused on training on risks, detection, and compliance with existing regulations
- Cooperative Response Planning



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION



16

ONGOING COLLABORATION

- Co-present annually at technical meetings
- Plant Pest Summit, 2009 – current
- Wisconsin Invasive Species Council
- Invasive Forest Pest Coordinating Group, 2024- current
 - Emerald Ash Borer Operations Group, 2006 - 2023
- Response planning for emerging pests



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION



17

Thank You!



Contact us:



Becky Gray – DNR Forest Health – rebecca.gray@wisconsin.gov



Renee Pinski – DATCP Plant Industry – renee.pinski@wisconsin.gov

November 13, 2025

18