

Insect and Disease Observations in Vermont Late Spring - Early Summer 2009

Insects

Red oak defoliation in Middlesex, Bolton, Jericho, Jamaica and other parts of Vermont, appears to be heavier and more extensive than last year. The defoliation is the work of an oak leaf-tier/leaf roller complex. This damage has also been reported from Maine and New Hampshire. Numerous larvae have been observed on defoliated oaks, and we are attempting to rear larvae to adulthood for definitive identifications. (Photos taken by Ron Kelley in Bolton, Jericho and Middlesex.)



Balsam twig aphid populations are high this year.
<http://www.forestryimages.org/images/768x512/0907006.jpg>



Balsam Gall Midge damage is increasing in many Christmas tree plantations in northern Vermont. (Photo taken by Ron Kelley.)

Eastern tent caterpillar nests are more common than usual in north-central Vermont. (Photo taken by Ron Kelley.)



Euonymus caterpillar has been especially noticeable in Chittenden and Washington Counties.
<http://bugguide.net/node/view/194368> The spotted, white adults are in a group known as ermine moths. <http://bugguide.net/node/view/194213>

Forest tent and gypsy moth caterpillars are being seen in small numbers and scattered locations.
<http://www.vtfrp.org/protection/howtoidentify.cfm>

Honeylocust podgall midge has been observed on honey locusts in Chittenden County.
<http://www.forestryimages.org/images/768x512/1325072.jpg>

Imported willow leaf beetle and Cottonwood leaf beetle, in both the larval and adult stages, have been observed on the same host plants.
<http://www.forestryimages.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=5174038>;
<http://www.forestryimages.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=5190061>;
<http://www.forestryimages.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=5084030>;
<http://www.forestryimages.org/images/768x512/5084043.jpg>



Heavy **Leafroller** damage typical of that caused by *Sparganothis pettitana* was reported for ornamental sugar maples in Highgate. (Photo taken by Ron Kelley.)

May-June Beetles (*Phyllophaga* species) made an earlier-than-usual appearance this spring (May 4th sightings by Jon Turmel) and continue to come to lights into mid-June.

<http://bugguide.net/node/view/47697>

White spotted sawyer beetles, sometimes confused with the Asian longhorned beetle, are in flight.

<http://www.forestryimages.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=5203071>

Diseases

Ash anthracnose has been observed on white and green ash.

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/diseases/images/fac54s00a.jpg>. Sycamore anthracnose is also common.

Weir's cushion rust has been observed on Colorado blue spruce.

<http://www.plantpath.cornell.edu/trees/WeirCshRust.html>

Pine Needlecast, probably caused by brown spot needle blight, is common and widespread on white pine again this year, particularly in southern Vermont, causing previous year needles on many trees to brown up in early spring. Trees will look better shortly, once all the infected brown needles have dropped. (Photos taken by Ron Kelley.)



Abiotic

Frost damage to maples combined with wind tattering is widespread in the northern Champlain Valley. Note the similarity to pear thrips injury, but there was no sign of pear thrips on these leaves. (Photo taken by Ron Kelley of Norway maple leaves on Knight Point.)

Frost damage to other species occurred in many other locations throughout the state, affecting many species, including white ash, red oak, butternut, and balsam fir Christmas trees. Many people remarked on the frost damage to Japanese knotweed. Unfortunately, that plant is recovering nicely!



Thin crowns on black cherry have been reported from several areas, but no cause has been determined. One theory is that thinning may be attributed to a heavy seed crop. This is not considered a leaf problem, but a twig problem. The fungus that causes Cytospora has been found in some cherries with thin crowns. (Photo taken by Ron Kelley.)



Heavy flowering on maples is leading to heavy seed and thinner than normal crowns on some trees. **Ash** has heavy seed, and when it drops will show thin crowns. **Black locust** is also having a great year for flowers. <http://www.invasive.org/images/768x512/5274039.jpg>

Insect Relatives

Deer ticks have been acquired and/or observed throughout the state this spring. Confused about their life cycle? See http://cal.vet.upenn.edu/projects/parasit06/life%20cycles/tick_site/animlife.htm.

Bladder and crimson galls, caused by eriophyid mites, are very common in maple this year. <http://www.forestryimages.org/images/768x512/0907041.jpg>;
http://www.fcps.edu/islandcreekes/ecology/maple_gall_mite.htm

Worrisome Exotics

Emerald ash borer was most recently detected in New York State in Cattaraugus County on June 15, 2009. <http://readme.readmedia.com/news/show/Emerald-Ash-Borer-Found-in-New-York-State/794021>

Hemlock woolly adelgid has detected in Guilford June 8, 2009. Adults, eggs, crawlers, and attached nymphs were all present on the samples. The Vermont towns now confirmed to have the insect, still all in Windham County, are Brattleboro, Dummerston, Guilford, Jamaica, Townshend, and Vernon.
<http://www.vermontagriculture.com/ARMES/plantindustry/caps/images/hwadelgid.jpg>

Invasive Plants

Goutweed is in bloom. http://www.vtinvasiveplants.org/pdfs/Factsheet/goutweed_factsheet.pdf

Wild chervil range continues to expand and very prevalent in Randolph area.
<http://www.vtinvasiveplants.org/pdfs/How%20to%20Avoid%20an%20Infestation.pdf>

Miscellaneous

Jon Turmel has begun a series called "What's Bugging You?" with Sharon Meyer on WCAX on Wednesdays. Here's a link to the first piece in the series.
<http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=10559020> You can catch subsequent segments by going WCAX.com, clicking on Weather, and then clicking on Changing Seasons (right below where it says Weather), or go to this link:
http://www.wcax.com/Global/category.asp?C=120654&nav=menu183_3_3