

Forest Health

The Forest Health Program works cooperatively with the USDA-Aphis and the Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology to monitor and/or control forest insects and diseases. The following summary highlights accomplishments for 2007:

Gypsy Moth Management: 23,048 acres treated in 5 counties; 16,007 traps detected 12,407 moths from 59 counties. No new counties were quarantined this year.

Emerald Ash Borer: The 2007 Emerald Ash Borer survey deployed 25 field personnel from the Division of Forestry and USDA / APHIS to set 2,570 EAB trap trees and destructive sample trees. In addition, purple panel traps were evaluated by placing 50 of them in delimits of known infested areas. The survey identified a total five new infested counties (Noble, Elkhart, Wells, Wabash, and Whitley) and 34 new infested townships, within both new and existing infested counties. Through 2007, EAB was detected in 17 counties, particularly in northeastern Indiana

Other potentially major exotic forest pests of concern (but not yet encountered) for Indiana in 2007 include sudden oak death (SOD) and *Sirex* wood wasp. DNR surveyed 13 locations for *Sirex*, and inspected nurseries for SOD. Neither pest was intercepted in 2007, in Indiana.

The **2007 growing season's major forest health problems** were related to the April freeze following unseasonably early leaf expansion, and the severe state-wide drought. **Forest tent caterpillar** has abated, while **Gypsy moth** and **emerald ash borer** continue to impact portions of the state's woodlands.

Forest health issues reported by landowners and forest managers recurring from previous years include oak wilt, butternut canker, Dutch elm disease, ash yellows, white pine root decline (*Procer*a root rot), overstocked and aging pine plantation mortality, and pine shoot beetles. Reports of notable activity and damage were detailed for aphids, bagworms, conifer bark beetles, fall webworm, fire blight, leafhoppers, leaf miners, Japanese beetles, mimosa webworms, orange striped oak worm, yellow-necked caterpillars, oystershell scale, periodical cicada in NW Indiana, pine bark adelgids, pine needle scale, powdery mildew, various oak and pine galls, tuliptree scale, verticillium wilt, beech blight aphids, and spider mites.

Finally, **continuing forest mortality** from extended droughts (1999, 2002, late 2005, 2007) and past defoliations (loopers, forest tent caterpillar, anthracnose, frosts and freezes) continue to affect forestlands in south-central and southeastern Indiana.