Conservation Corner

*Conservation Corner is a weekly article produced by the Forest County Land &Water Conservation Department. For more information contact Steve Kircher, County Conservationist-Land Information/GIS Director at 715-478-1387 or by e-mail at* *lcc@co.forest.wi.us**.*

As you head out to the Woodlot this Fall, watch out for these 2020 Fall Invasive Pests.

**Asian Long horned Beetle**

 Asian Long horned Beetle (ALB)- While ALB has not been discovered in Wisconsin, the USDA is encouraging landowners to spend a few short minutes checking trees for this invasive pest. August and September are an ideal time to spot this beetle as they emerge from trees. The quicker this pest is discovered and reported, the easier it will be to eradicate. ALB attacks a variety of trees including maple, elm, ash, birch, poplar, and willow. Signs of infestation include dime-sized exit holes, shallow scars in bark, sawdust material on ground, tree branches, dead branches, and the beetle itself.

**Gypsy Moth Egg Masses**

 The eastern two-thirds of the Wisconsin is considered generally infested and is quarantined. The quarantine prohibits the movement of items that could harbor gypsy moth eggs, caterpillars or adults and allow them to be moved to uninfested areas.

While out checking your woods for Asian Long horned Beetle signs, it is also a good time to check for egg masses of gypsy moth. Egg masses are laid in August on hardwood trees. There have been increasing reports of gypsy moth in southeastern and central Wisconsin counties. Doing an egg mass survey of your trees is an easy way to predict next year’s population of caterpillars and the damage they most likely will do. While trees that are healthy can tolerate a single defoliation, it's always good to have early warning.

**Spotted Lanternfly**

 This pest has not been found in Wisconsin. Landowners in southern counties where Tree of Heaven (it's preferred host!) is established, will need to put this pest on early watch. Spotted Lanternfly adults feed on grapevines and tree of heaven, while the nymphs prefer grapes, hops, roses, and hardwoods such as walnut, maple, willow and poplar.

The Spotted Lanternfly is a type of true bug called a planthopper, even though it may look like a butterfly or moth to some people when its wings are open. Despite having four wings, it prefers to move by jumping rather than by flying.

**Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)** detected in new counties

 The Emerald Ash Borer is a very small, metallic green beetle (about the size of a grain of cooked rice). While adult beetles are not visible at this time of year, they feed exclusively on ash trees. Look for thinning or die-back of the upper crown of the tree and woodpecker damage as the larvae eat the bole of the tree under the bark.

Along with WI DNR, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has detected emerald ash borer (EAB) for the first time in the following counties: Dunn (town of Rock Creek), Oconto (town of Little Suamico), Pepin (towns of Lima and Waterville), and Shawano (city of Shawano).

These are the first new county detections of 2020 for Wisconsin. There have also been 30 new municipal detections in counties where EAB was previously detected. To this date, 56 out of 72 Wisconsin counties have EAB present.

WI DNR has produced Silvicultural Guidelines for EAB to assist woodland owners in managing this infestation.