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168 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0168

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December 2013 Forest & Shade Tree – Insect & Disease Conditions Update for Electronic Subscribers

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Winter Moth: Winter moth (*Operophtera brumata*) is firmly established along the coast of southern Maine from Kittery (York County) to Bar Harbor (Hancock County). Defoliation this spring was moderate to heavy in scattered locations from Cape Elizabeth, Peaks Island and Harpswell (Cumberland County) to Vinalhaven and Bristol (Lincoln County). Defoliation was fairly well matched to the risk map developed in 2012 from moths submitted in December. Total area defoliated was 5,180 acres. Light defoliation was observed in many additional near coastal areas in York, Cumberland, Sagadahoc, Lincoln and Knox Counties. Male moths were positively confirmed by dissection in Hancock County although no defoliation was found in 2013.

We are asking for your help in determining where else these moths are established and where they are abundant.
Please report observations of moths seen in Maine flying or at lights during the months of December and January using our on-line survey: http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health/invasive_threats/winter_moth_survey.htm.

Parasitic flies, *Cyzenis albicans*, were released in Harpswell and Cape Elizabeth to begin the process of bringing the winter moth population under control and in balance with the Maine environment. These flies are very specific to feeding in winter moth and have been used successfully in Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Oregon and Washington State. More flies will be released in the future. This work is being carried out in conjunction with the University of Massachusetts and is funded by the USDA.

The distribution and spread of the winter moth is being monitored by the Maine Forest Service. The University of Maine is researching the impact of winter moth on the agricultural crops blueberries and apples as well as the transport of this pest to new locations in soil. The USDA-Forest Service is monitoring long term effects to the forest.

If you have winter moth in your area please do not move perennials, soil or apple/oak/birch saplings out of the area. You could be moving winter moth pupae or eggs at the same time.

More information about winter moth can be found at:
http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health/insects/winter_moth.htm.

Website: Since the Legislature combined the Departments of Agriculture and Conservation, the administration has been working to develop a new Website that reflects the identity of the new Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry. This new site <http://www.maine.gov/dacf> is totally reformatted and many of the links that you may have used for years cannot be redirected with this new site. Our new home on the site can be found at: www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health. There you can find links to our factsheets, invasive species information and Conditions Reports.

If you have any problems finding the resources you are accustomed to using, please let us know so we can help. This site is evolving and there is more work to be done. The goal is to make it easier to find information you want and to make the new site even better than the old.

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Gypsy Moth: This year’s pheromone baited milk carton traps caught around 8000 male gypsy moths in towns north of the current quarantine line. That is a good indication the front of the infestation has moved and the quarantine area is due for revision. Because male gypsy moths are highly attracted to the traps and can fly relatively long distances, a second life stage (egg, larva, pupa, or adult female) is sought to confirm establishment in a new town. To date, follow-up surveys in towns with high counts in 2013 have revealed gypsy moth egg masses in ten new towns:

Town	County	Date
Moro Plt	Aroostook	11/15/2013
T7 R5 WELS	Aroostook	11/15/2013
T6 R6 WELS	Penobscot	11/12/2013
T8 R6 WELS	Penobscot	11/05/2013
T8 R8 WELS	Penobscot	12/04/2013
Bowdoin College Grant East Twp.	Piscataquis	11/20/2013
Indian Stream Twp.	Somerset	11/07/2013
Johnson Mountain Twp.	Somerset	11/07/2013
Squaretown Twp.	Somerset	11/07/2013
T3 R5 BKP WKR	Somerset	11/14/2013

The quarantine impacts movement of products, including forest products, from quarantined areas to areas outside the quarantine. Wood harvested in areas inside the quarantine must be kept within the quarantine or shipped to a facility with an agreement to receive regulated material. For more information, contact Allison Kanoti: allison.m.kanoti@maine.gov.

Emerald Ash Borer: Emerald ash borer still has not been detected in Maine, but it has been found within 30 miles of our western border. Late fall and winter are good times to survey for emerald ash borer. The pre-pupae resting under the bark are targeted by hungry woodpeckers. The resulting damage was described in a Thanksgiving-week press release by the USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, excerpted below:

<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/nanews/nastories/News-Release-Yellow-FINAL-112613-w-template.pdf> (for complete text)

“...Woodpeckers peck at the bark of trees, often stripping chunks off the darker outer layers to search for insects underneath. Noticeable “blonding” or yellowing of the bark can result as layers of lighter-colored bark underneath are revealed.

“This time of year, those fresh, cream-colored wood pecks really stand out against the darker outer bark of the tree,” said Nate Siegert, a U.S. Forest Service entomologist. “In heavily-infested ash trees, there will be a lot more bark removed and the signs will be more noticeable.”

...“What we’re looking for is severe woodpecker activity on ash that lacks any deep excavation,” said Lombard. People who see similar woodpecker activity on an ash tree should contact their state forest health manager.”

Please be on the lookout for and report this type of damage while spending time outdoors this winter. You can report sightings on-line at www.maine.gov/eab.

Emerald ash borer webinar: the EAB University’s last free webinar of the fall season is this week. As always, these webinars are recorded and available for later viewing on their website:

http://www.emeraldashborer.info/eab_university_ondemand.cfm#sthash.dCFglZP.dpbs

Economic Impact and Management of EAB in Woodlots, Classic Wood Utilization Webinar

http://www.emeraldashborer.info/eab_university.cfm#sthash.fBTPcVgN.dpbs

Thursday, December 5th 10:00 am Central / 11:00 am Eastern

2014 Agricultural Trades Show

The 73rd annual Agricultural Trades Show will be held at the Augusta Civic Center on January, 7-9 2014. Admission is FREE! Lab staff have been invited to present programs as part of the SWOAM and Maine Christmas Tree Growers Association annual meetings. Program details should be available by the middle of the month. More information can be found at http://www.maine.gov/dacf/ard/market_promotion/ag_trade_show.shtml.

MFS_conditions_reports is a seasonal series of updates about insects and diseases affecting and threatening Maine's forest and shade trees. Several issues are produced each growing season with the first usually appearing in mid- to late-April and the last in late-summer. To unsubscribe or manage your subscription visit:

http://mailman.informe.org/mailman/listinfo/mfs_conditions_reports

For more information on MFS programs, services, and publications, call the Maine Forest Service at 207-287-2791, or 1-800-367-0223, or send an email to forestinfo@maine.gov. Visit our website at www.maineforestservice.gov.