Emerging Pest Alert: Lily Leaf Beetle

While not a regulated pest in North Dakota, the lily leaf beetle (LLB) has been found in nearby states and provinces. LLB (Lilioceris lilii) was first found in North America in the 1940s in Montreal, Canada. Since then, it has spread through many of the northeastern states of the U.S. and eastern Canada, with pockets reported as far west as Alberta, Canada and Washington state. Nearest to us, LLB has been found in northern Wisconsin and Winnipeg, Manitoba.

LLB adults over-winter in the soil and in leaf-litter. Once they emerge in the spring, the females will lay eggs on the underside of lily leaves. When the eggs hatch, the larvae will feed on the leaves. The larvae do the most damage by defoliating the plants. The larvae then form a cocoon in the soil and will re-emerge as adults in mid- to late-summer. Only one generation occurs per year.

Look for bright red beetles or pale red eggs laid in lines underneath lily leaves. The larva are black. Only plants in the Lilium spp. or Fritillaria spp. are susceptible.

North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension and North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) would like to note the track of this pest. When working in the nursery this season, please note any bright red insects feeding on lilies. You may contact NDSU Plant Diagnostic Lab with suspect samples at 701-231-7854 or NDSU Entomology at 701-231-7915.

View their websites for more information regarding sending of samples: www.ag.ndsu.edu/pdl or https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/extensionentomology/. Source: lilybeetletracker.com

Elhard Wins Robert McAdams Award

Charles Elhard is the recipient of the 2016 Robert McAdams Horticultural Inspection Society Award!

The award was established for superior achievement in professional development in Horticultural Inspection within the Central Chapter of the Horticultural Inspection Society (H.I.S.). The award is given on an annual basis to a member of the Central Chapter of H.I.S. who has performed his/her duties to an outstanding level of service and achievement.

Charles has been a member of H.I.S. for seven years and treasurer of the organization for four years. His hard work, dedication, and extensive knowledge of the nursery industry is much appreciated. Charles is the program lead for NDDA’s nursery, export and pest survey programs and has been with NDDA for seven years.

Charles was nominated by a group of his peers and is now in the running for the Carl Carlson Award, a national award, to be awarded in August. Please congratulate Charles on the receipt of this very prestigious award.
NDSU Introduces a New Birch Cultivar, another becomes available

The NDSU Woody Plant Improvement (WPI) research program has introduced a new woody plant cultivar. Emerald Beacon™ (Betula tianshanica ‘EmerDak’) is a distinctive, cold hardy birch selection that grows in a narrowly pyramidal form. At maturity, the tree will be 30 feet tall by 12 feet wide. It sports emerald green foliage throughout the summer and bright golden-yellow foliage in autumn. Its slight exfoliating white bark is extremely showy, adding significant seasonal interest. Emerald Beacon™ is hardy in zones 4a-6.

After first being introduced in 2006, Northern Tribute® River Birch (Betula nigra 'Dickinson') is finally available in the wholesale nursery trade from Heritage Seedlings in Salem, Oregon. Northern Tribute® is an outstanding landscape specimen with its upright rounded habit and ivory bark exfoliating to copper-bronze. Northern Tribute® has shown superior adaptability to stresses of the Upper Midwest and Northern Plains. Hardy in zones 3-9, Northern Tribute® grows to 35 feet tall by 30 feet wide at maturity. More information on WPI and their introductions can be found at their website: https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/plantsciences/research/woody-plants.
Take Precautions with Firewood Transportation

BISMARCK – The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA), North Dakota Forest Service, and North Dakota Parks and Recreation strongly advise that firewood should be bought and used locally to prevent the spread of pests both within the state, and to prevent pests from accidentally entering the state.

“Both visitors and residents of North Dakota should not bring firewood into the state from any state- or federally-quarantined region,” Goehring said. “By providing the public with safer options, such as Bismarck area firewood vendors that are experienced in moving firewood legally into our state, we hope to protect the Dakotas from invasive species that kill trees.”

Many states in the Great Plains region near North Dakota have areas under quarantine for pests such as emerald ash borer (EAB), gypsy moth, and Asian longhorned beetle, and it is illegal to move any regulated items (most firewood is considered a regulated item) from quarantined zones out of those states and into North Dakota without a state or federal inspection certificate, or a stamp certifying heat treatment. Other areas, such as Rocky Mountain states, could have regional pests of concern within their firewood – including mountain pine beetle, balsam woolly adelgid, walnut twig beetle and others.

North Dakota has more than 400,000 acres of community forests and almost 2 million acres of upland forests, riparian forests and rural tree plantings such as wind breaks. Protecting the health of these trees is a shared responsibility of everyone that values the natural environment of North Dakota.

“These pests spread slowly on their own, but can be moved long distances in firewood and nursery stock,” State Forester Larry Kotchman said. “Please buy your firewood from local sources, and if you are coming from out of the state, check with your local authorities ahead of time to see if your firewood is under any state or federal regulation. You can help protect the trees of the North Dakota.”

“Hunters, sportsmen and all visitors coming into the state this time of year need to know the regulations that restrict the movement of firewood,” North Dakota Parks and Recreation Interim Director Jesse Hanson said. “Just like you wouldn’t hunt or fish without a permit, you can’t just bring any firewood into North Dakota without knowing the rules and regulations that apply.”

Moving uncertified firewood out of the areas under quarantine for these pests can be a federal offense. Nearby states with quarantines for these pests include Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Michigan.

Anyone who has moved firewood into the state from a regulated area is urged to burn it immediately. Do not bring it back with you, and please consult with your local Department of Agriculture prior to moving firewood across state or county boundaries. For more information on firewood pests, visit https://www.nd.gov/ndda/program/firewood, www.dontmovefirewood.org or www.HungryPests.com.

Nursery Program by the Numbers

In 2016, 274 nursery licenses were issued, a decrease of 25 from 2015 (due to Soil Conservation district discontinuing sales of nursery stock). This number includes 36 grower locations covering 1,050 acres of field-grown nursery stock. NDDA nursery staff inspected 130 of these nurseries during the season. All growers were inspected and certified as per North Dakota Century Code.
Pest Survey Updates

Japanese Beetle (JB)
As a continuation of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Specialty Crops Block Grant survey, NDDA, with help from Master Gardeners and nurseries, placed 530 JB traps across the state. JB numbers ticked upward in 2016. In all, 386 beetles were caught in 79 traps. Twelve counties had positives this year, as shown in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Positive Traps</th>
<th>No. of Beetles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barnes</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burleigh</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cass</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Forks</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McLean, Richland, Stutsman</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morton</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rolette</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stark</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williams</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NDDA anticipates another trapping season in 2017, with remaining available funding. The full report for the 2016 survey can be found on our website at https://www.nd.gov/ndda/pest/japanese-beetle.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)
No EAB were found in North Dakota during the 2016 trapping season. Approximately 400 traps were placed across the state. Nationally, EAB was discovered in five additional states, bringing the total to 30. The newest discoveries were in Nebraska, Texas, Oklahoma, Alabama and Delaware. While the future of the EAB program is uncertain, it is anticipated that trapping will continue in 2017.

North Dakota Nursery and Greenhouse Association celebrates 50 years
NDNGA will host its 50th anniversary convention on January 29-31, 2017. Plan on joining this organization to learn more about pertinent topics to the nursery, landscape and greenhouse industry. NDNGA is a professional trade organization dedicated to advancing the horticultural industry in the area. Members of the association are pledged to conduct themselves and their business on the highest ethical plane and endeavor to elevate the standards of the greenhouse, nursery and landscaping industry in North Dakota. For more visit their website at www.ndnga.com.