

Texas Forest Service

Forest Health Highlights 2017

SPB- A total of 42 traps were set in 14 locations throughout east Texas. Traps were “enhanced” with endo-brevocomin and run for 6 weeks. No SPB were trapped. A total of 3,859 clerids were trapped. SPB ecology and management were presented to various audiences throughout the year.

IPS/BTB- Continued as a major source of effort as these are the most currently active bark beetles. Did 3 presentations on management and Identification of bark beetles. Did 4 demonstration on tree injection of systemic insecticides for bark beetle control.

EAB- Statewide 420 purple panel traps were installed to attempt to catch EAB. An additional 24 green panel traps baited with hexenol, Manuka oil and lactone lures were installed in a paired trap experiment done jointly with FHP, USFS. Five adult EAB were caught in one week on a trap installed in the same tree where the initial Texas EAB detection occurred. Extensive ground surveys were conducted of the immediate area with no infested trees found. A detection flight was conducted in August but could not identify any infested trees. An ArcGIS Online webmap was developed for rapid data collection. Talks on EAB were given 12 times to mostly professional (arborist/forester) audiences. Numerous responses to EAB hotline calls-all negative.

RAB – An initial survey was conducted in conjunction with FHP USFS in Tyler and Hardin counties with infested sites being the focus. Two webinars were conducted, with another coming soon, in cooperation with USFS and LBJWC. Information was sent to TFS field staff.

TLCA- A program to provide nest treatment services by TFS was initiated. To date, no nests have been treated under the program. The majority of the calls that desperately need this service are currently excluded from participating by language in the pesticide label. I am working with BASF, makers of Fipronil, to expand the label language to capture more forest applications. As part of this process, BASF has recommended Alpine WSG as the chemical of choice to treat TLCA in urbanized settings. Taught students at SFA and UT Tyler during a field class.

NPTM- Several cases of tip moth infestation were investigated in the North region. No common link was evident. Recommendations ranged from mowing young trees under and starting a new plantation to working with the landowner to time spray application.

Brazilian Pepper Tree- CWMA Grant was completed and Port Aransas is now independently managing their BPT problem. Participated in local awareness campaign and workday to remove BPT. TFS will continue to provide minimal assistance. Maps and treatment data were packaged and delivered to local control. A post-Hurricane Harvey assessment was conducted of the treated areas with no discernible spread of the plant.

Chinese Tallow Tree- Assessment of treatment of CT by TPWD on the Caddo Lake WMA in Harrison was conducted as part of the aerial EAB assessment done in August. Treatment effects were not detectable as the treatment was over 2 years old. Treatment will take place again this winter and the area will be checked again when the area is flown again in the summer of 2018. Pre-planning is being conducted for invasive species identification by drone flights.

Usual Suspects – Made recommendations for treatment on many of the usual FH problems: Pales weevils, twig girdlers, forest tent caterpillars, oakworms, webworms, red-headed ash borers, carpenter ants, carpenter bees, fusiform rust, smooth patch, hypoxylon canker, bacterial wetwood, aphids, galls, bark lice, dogwood anthracnose.

Unusual – A large stand of ash was in severe decline in Delta County. No sign of EAB. Other co-dominant trees were healthy. Ash-yellows disease suspected but was denied permission by landowner to sample a single tree for rearing out or lab diagnosis.