The Nature Conservancy & Continental dialogue on non-Native Forest Insects and Diseases

You’ve got a problem – what do you do? BMPs for invasive insects

Panel:

Joe McCarthy, Chicago Bureau of Forestry

Mark Dunteman, Urban Forestry Consultant

Andrea Diss-Torrance, Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

Pamela Louks, Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources

Joe McCarthy:

1. Intro

City currently has 220 employees, down from 400+ in ‘90s

2. Invasive species: a conundrum

Eradicate? Control? Who decides?

3. ALB

Four infestations, Chicago eradicated, NY, NY, Worcester

4. ALB is in eradication mode

Following protocols, surveys, removal, replacement

5. Chicago’s response

USDA IDOA were the experts

Cooperative effort

6. ALB eradication funding (IL)

95% APHIS, 5% from state/city

7. EAB in control/mgt mode

Federal funds just can’t keep up

Greater burden on local communities

EAB harder to detect

8. EAB map

9. Chicago locations

Ten confirmed

10. Ash management

11. Ash maintenance

12. Inoculation with Tree-age

13. Bio control insects

14. Bio control locations

15. Limited management tools available

16. Contacts

Mark Dunteman:

Primarily urban forestry consultant; clients cover from rural to urban communities

Rural/para-urban locations at a loss for EAB control options.

Use inventories: 8-18% ash

Long term policy has been to take overused species and reduce them while replacing them with underused species. Trying to get the smaller communities to get behind this idea; selling on diversity.

Local small trown w/17% ash – working to develop target for next 5 yrs, reducing to 5%.

Keep healthy trees for now, remove weaker.

Review in 5 yrs, where's EAB impacting? Focus on poorer quality trees, reduce ash genus %.

Andrea Diss-Torrance:

How many folks from IL? Most, mostly from municipalities.

Gypsy moth their main focus

Pam Louks:

Job is to assist cities & towns with all aspects of urban forestry issues.

Started funneling info to towns on EAB when it first came to state, including planning template; it's also on website.

Panel Qs & As

Q: For Joe: On Tree-age treatment, what are the city's specs?

A: A half-mile radius of 10 infested areas. Work for 2-3 years, limited funds.

Q: For Joe: How much was the cost per tree?

A: The material was about $500k, doesn't know cost per tree.

A: Pam: Purdue has good website for EAB.

Joe: How many people know what USDA-APHIS-PPQ means? In 1998, I had no idea, but now they're a close partner.

Q: For Joe: During ALB, you had a lot of support from the Mayor's office? How's the support for EAB?

A: Night and day – back then, it was a major perceived threat. Economic conditions are of more concern, other issues are in front. Staff is smaller. EAB doesn't have national funding, every community is left to do what they can.

A: Bob Benjamin: When ALB hit, it was the first major threat since Dutch elm, and it was known it could be eradicated.

Q: For Joe: The institution I work at is surrounded by a forest. Is there any long-term plan for that? We enjoy the buffer, but it sounds like it may become firewood soon.

A: Interesting to see if any communities post their ash loss in coming years.

A: Andrea: You have time to plan ahead, maybe as much as 10 years. If that buffer's important, now is the time to think about planting other trees.

Q: Follow-up: What about the 10,000 trees on the other side of the fence?

A: They may have a plan. It may be time for you to think about what you can do if you value that forest.