

Forest Pest Management Section Activities to Monitor Thousand Cankers Disease/Walnut Twig Beetle

The Maryland Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service has conducted several programs to monitor this pest/disease complex.

Visual Surveys: From 2011 through 2013 visual surveys of walnut stands were conducted throughout the state. Field staff were looking for symptoms of premature yellowing in early summer and dieback in the trees. Since the disease was not known to be wide spread these survey were discontinued.

Trapping: Since 2012 pheromone baited traps have been set throughout the state at selected walnut stands. Traps are monitored from Mid Summer through Mid Fall, with bi-weekly collections. Samples are sent out of state for inspection and pest identification. Walnut Twig beetles have been recovered from one site in Cecil County. This site has been extensively monitored with additional traps.

Disease Identification: At the Cecil Co. site wood samples were taken from the positive trap site and cultures run to identify the presence of the fungus. One tree has tested positive. Other trees at the site have not. Additional sample will be done if other sites have positive beetle collections.