

# Forest Pest Alert

## Thousand Cankers Disease

(*Pityophthorus juglandis*) (*Geosmithia morbida*)

**Why we care:** Thousand cankers disease (TCD) involves an insect native to the southwestern U.S. and a newly identified pathogen. It is a relatively new concern for black walnut trees. When tiny walnut twig beetles feed on tree branches, they introduce a fungal pathogen that causes TCD in live trees. The pathogen kills small areas of tissue, resulting in cankers. As more cankers form, branches die and over time, the entire tree succumbs.

**What is at risk?** Michigan's forests are home to approximately 8.5 million black walnut trees with an economic value of more the \$86 million and ecological value as a food source for birds, mammals and other wildlife. There are also more than 80 walnut growers in Michigan with approximately 4,000 trees in nut production.

**The threat:** Black walnut trees in many western states, and in Tennessee and Pennsylvania, are dying from TCD. The beetle and fungus can be transported into new areas in walnut logs, firewood and staves used for woodworking. Black walnut is a valuable timber species and important for wildlife.

**What could happen in Michigan?** An effective control for TCD has not been identified. A high proportion of black walnut trees will likely die if TCD becomes established in Michigan.

**What can you do?** If black walnut trees have wilting leaves or dying branches during the summer, check the tree carefully. If there is no obvious cause of the problem, such as a broken branch, note the location of the suspect tree and report it. Identifying the tiny walnut twig beetles and confirming the presence of TCD requires specialized expertise.



Tiny adult walnut twig beetles vector TCD

Whitney Cranshaw, Col State University



Exit holes of walnut twig beetle

Whitney Cranshaw, Col State University

### Report Suspect Forest Pest Infestations in Michigan



Email: [MDA-Info@michigan.gov](mailto:MDA-Info@michigan.gov)

Phone: MDARD Customer Service Center (800) 292-3939

Midwest Invasive Species Information Network: [www.misin.msu.edu](http://www.misin.msu.edu)

Learn more: [www.michigan.gov/exoticpests](http://www.michigan.gov/exoticpests) and [www.thousandcankers.com](http://www.thousandcankers.com)



### Don't Move Firewood!

This information was derived in part from Michigan State University bulletin "EXOTIC FOREST PESTS: Let's keep them out of Michigan", May 2013.