



# ENTOMOLOGICAL NEWS



Plant Protection and  
Weed Control  
**2023 Year-End Report**

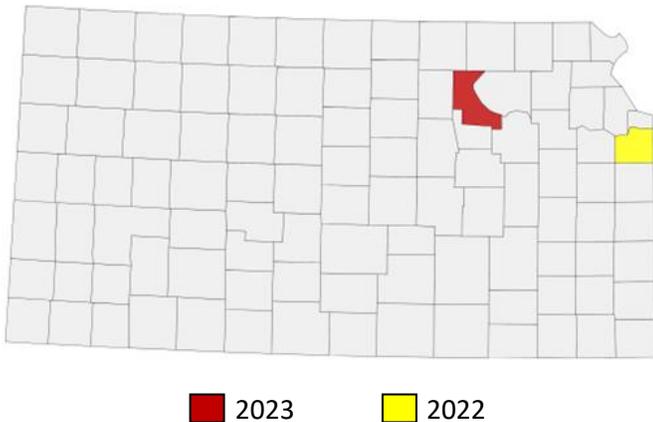
## Spongy Moth (*Lymantria dispar dispar*)

In 2022, two male moths were found in Johnson County, Kansas in USDA-APHIS monitoring traps. After a delimiting survey this summer, no additional moths were detected, suggesting that the moths were likely hitchhikers brought into the state. This survey was led by USDA-APHIS with the KDA entomologist assisting.

This year, one male moth was found in the city of Manhattan (Riley County) in a monitoring trap set by KDA. Manhattan is a college town, and the moth was captured in a trap adjacent to a U-Haul Company at the peak of student move-in season. A KDA-led delimiting survey will take place next year.

Currently, no known populations of spongy moth exist in Kansas.

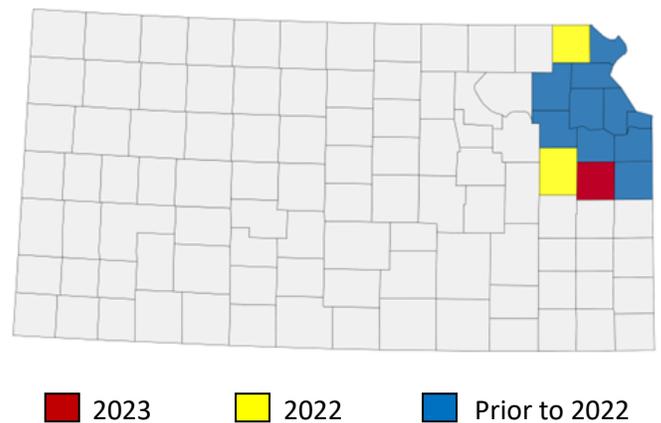
**Spongy Moth Detections**



several years due to the extent of infestation. This detection brings the total number of positive counties in Kansas to 13. Four trap trees were set in the southeast corner of the state in Cherokee County this spring and checked for EAB in the fall. No EAB were found.

EAB first arrived in Kansas in 2012—over a decade ago. Although both federal and state quarantines to regulate this insect have lifted, KDA and its partners continue their efforts in monitoring, outreach, and biological control releases to slow the spread of this invasive pest. This year, USDA-APHIS released *Oobius* wasps in Osage and Miami County. If established, these tiny wasps parasitize EAB eggs and reduce populations of EAB.

**2023 EAB Presence**



## Emerald Ash Borer (*Agilus planipennis*)

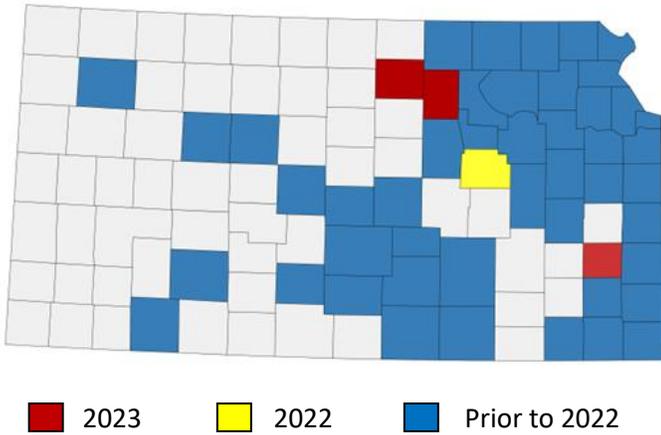
Emerald ash borer (EAB) continues to spread through the state. In July, EAB was found and confirmed in Franklin County by the Kansas Forest Service, and it is thought that the borer had already been in the area for

## Japanese Beetle (*Popillia japonica*)

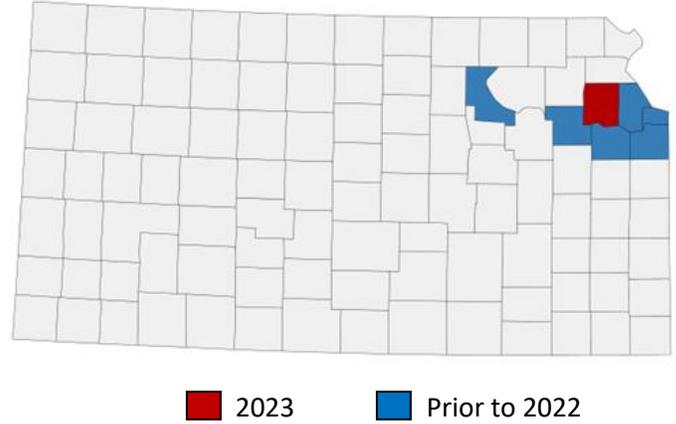
Kansas changed to a Category 3 status under the Japanese Beetle Harmonization Plan (Partially Infested → Generally Infested). This summer, 22 Japanese beetle (JB) traps were placed in 19 counties. The insect was detected in Allen, Clay, and Cloud counties. JB is now found in 50 counties, or 48% of the state.

While no longer a requirement, KDA plans to trap for Japanese beetle next year. Continuing to monitor the beetle’s spread will inform growers, particularly those in the central and western parts of the state, whether they will need to scout for this pest in their fields. Further, literature suggests that Japanese beetle will be limited in its expansion westward, thus, continuing to record JB-positive counties will be an informative contribution to the beetle’s history in Kansas.

**JB Detections**



**BMSB Detections**



**Brown Marmorated Stink Bug**  
**(*Halyomorpha halys*)**

This summer, 10 brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) sticky panel traps were placed in six counties. The insect was newly detected in Jefferson County. BMSB is now found in seven Kansas counties.



Above: BMSB sticky trap hanging from tree of heaven on the outside edge of a cornfield (Atchison County).

**Walnut Twig Beetle (*Pityophthorus juglandis*)**

A survey for walnut twig beetle (WTB) was once again conducted this year. Funnel traps were hung at 68 sites in 19 counties in the southeast region of the state. The presence of WTB can be detrimental to walnut trees due to the fungus *Geosmithia morbida*. As WTB bores into the walnut tree, the beetle carries the fungus inside, infecting the tree and causing Thousand Cankers Disease. While native to the southwestern U.S., this disease complex can have negative ecological and economic impacts on walnut populations and exports.

No WTB were found this season, however, nine species/genera of bark and ambrosia beetles were caught as bycatch, see table below.

Classification	County	# Collected
<i>Ambrosiodmus rubricollis</i>	Bourbon	1
<i>Ambrosiophilus atratus</i>	Atchison	2
<i>Cyclorhipidion bodoanum</i>	Greenwood	1
	Woodson	1
<i>Hypothenemus</i> sp.	Atchison	1
<i>Monarthrum fasciatum</i>	Atchison	1
<i>Pityophthorus</i> sp. (not WTB)	Atchison	5
	Cherokee	1
<i>Xyleborinus bispinatus</i>	Labette	1
<i>Xyleborinus saxesenii</i>	Atchison	2
	Cherokee	2
	Labette	4
	Bourbon	2
	Woodson	1
	Coffey	1
	Osage	1
<i>Xylosandrus crassiusculus</i>	Atchison	2

### **Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*)**

A spotted lanternfly (SLF) specimen was discovered in a 4-H insect collection at the Kansas State Fair in 2021. The insect was reportedly collected alive in the city of Colby (Thomas County). Follow-up surveys in Colby were conducted in 2022 and 2023. Tree of heaven (TOH) was checked for adults, nymphs, and signs of feeding. No SLF were found. This year concludes the survey work for SLF in this area.

This summer, KDA met with partners from USDA-APHIS, Kansas Forest Service, and Kansas State University Research and Extension to develop a response plan in preparation for the arrival of SLF in the state. Designated roles for each organization were decided and are as follows:

**USDA-APHIS:** Provide technical support to states as needed and track SLF at the national level. No plans for federal quarantines or regulations, that will be left up to the states.

**KDA:** Accept public reports, record detections, monitor spread, and continue to raise awareness. No plans to quarantine or regulate the insect.

**Kansas Forest Service:** Manage insect reports across the state. Raise awareness for TOH and encourage its removal.

**K-State Extension:** Provide SLF outreach and assist the public in managing the pest on their property. Provide training to agents and at public events or meetings.

### **Box Tree Moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*)**

This year, box tree moth (BTM) was added to KDA's Insect Watch List. The moth is native to east Asia and is a significant threat to the boxwood industry. Box tree moth was found for the first time in Niagara Falls County, New York in 2021 and has since popped up in Michigan (2022) and Ohio (2023). BTM is spread through infested nursery stock. Currently, there are no populations or detections of BTM in Kansas. Go to Insect Watch List → Not Established → Box Tree Moth to learn more about this invasive species.



**Above: An adult box tree moth. Photo courtesy of the USDA-APHIS Flickr library.**



**Above: Box tree moth caterpillars. This stage of development is the most destructive. After completely defoliating boxwoods, the caterpillars will girdle the branches, ultimately killing the shrub. Photo courtesy of the USDA-APHIS Flickr library. Below: early, light feeding damage described as 'window-panning.'**



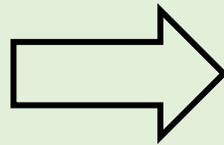
# Special Thanks

Thank you to Robert Androw from the Biodiversity Services Facility at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History for identifying the bark and ambrosia beetle samples from our walnut twig beetle survey!

## NEW REPORTING TOOL

As invasive insects continue to move westward, we anticipate an increase in insect reports from the public. In response, we developed an online reporting tool that will compile these reports into a single location for review. We will continue to accept insect inquiries via phone and email.

To make an online report, go [agriculture.ks.gov/insects](http://agriculture.ks.gov/insects) and click on the green beetle on the left side of the screen.



## Locally...

**Did you know?** Kansas has scorpions! The striped bark scorpion is common throughout the southcentral portion of the United States. Although these scorpions do not typically live in trees, these specimens were found in funnel traps hanging from walnut trees as part of our walnut twig beetle survey this year.

The arachnids prefer rocky glades, but they can also be spotted in wood or brush piles and even found indoors. Like other scorpions, they have a venomous sting, so take care!

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