

Tree/Plant Injury Monitoring Program - Volunteer Guidelines

Introduction and Overview

This project is designed to survey for a select set of related plant injury symptoms observed in recent years in Illinois and surrounding states. These symptoms have been associated with exposure of oaks and other tree and broadleaf plant species to some herbicides.

The data collected will help determine the scope of the problem including its geography, species involved, and severity of injuries. It will not identify specific cause(s) of individual occurrences of observed injuries. It will help elucidate patterns that can suggest potential causes and warrant further investigation and study.

The occurrence of this phenomenon is known to undergo considerable variation from year to year. Some years have shown little symptomatology while others have seen more widespread issues. There is no way to predict what 2018 will bring. It will likely take at least 2-3 years to build a reasonable understanding of annual variations.

Injuries to trees and other plants will be documented by recording visual observations of leaf and twig abnormalities on data sheets and by making an accompanying photographic record. In some cases, a few vegetative community level observations will also be needed.

Both positive findings (indicative symptoms present) and negative findings (indicative symptoms absent) are valuable. Knowing where and when symptoms occur and do not occur is important to understanding the scope of the problem and likely causes. Both types of findings in 2018 will provide an important baseline for understanding future trends as well.

Field data will be recorded on standardized data sheets. Equipment needed will include data sheets (Tree Injury Report Form), clipboard, binoculars (for viewing larger tree canopies), and camera. Don't forget water (most important), and sunscreen if needed!

Photographic documentation will require a **digital camera**. Some (especially forest) situations may require camera/lens combinations capable of magnifications generally equivalent to those provided by 7x36 binoculars, or equipment to remove twigs and leaves (sometimes at considerable height) for photography "in hand."

Be sure to keep track of the time, date, location of each photograph very carefully.

Please email a COPY of your data sheets and photos to monr@trn.org.

You may post a hard copy if needed to:
Monitoring - c/o Ben Smith-Potter
Prairie Rivers Network
1001 S. State St., Suite 1
Champaign, IL 61820