



## Another Forest Health Threat Confirmed in Tennessee: Thousand Cankers Disease Affecting Walnut

From the TN.gov Newsroom a press release dated Thursday, Aug. 5, 2010 states “The Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) today announced the discovery of Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD), **the first detection of the destructive tree pest east of the Mississippi River.** The discovery was made in July by a TDA forester.” The TCD discovery comes just a week after the emerald ash borer (EAB) was found in the same county – Knox. The branch above (photo courtesy of USDA Forest Service) shows characteristic staining associated with this disease. Infected areas of the tree will have many such areas hence the name Thousand Cankers Disease.



The TDA goes on to report “TCD is a progressive disease that kills a tree within two to three years after initial infection. The disease-causing fungus, *Geosmithia*, is transmitted by a small twig beetle. Branches and trunk tissue are killed by repeated infections by the

fungus, as the beetles carry the fungus into new bark.” The walnut twig beetle (*Pityophthorus juglandis*) has been identified as dispersing the fungus within and between trees.

In response to this find, the TDA will issue a quarantine in Knox county prohibiting the movement of firewood and black walnut nursery stock and limiting the movement of black walnut timber and other material that can spread TCD.

It is critical here in Mississippi that we like wise be aware of the potential spread. As indicated above this is the first report of the disease east of the Mississippi River. It had been reported in California, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and northern Mexico. Hence, this represents a jump in distribution mostly likely from movement on host material that was shipped east. For this reason, we are extremely concerned with the movement of firewood and other materials that can provide a pathway for this insect/disease association to be spread into the forests of Mississippi.

**DON'T MOVE  
FIREWOOD**

### For additional information contact:

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