

Forest Pest Alert

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

(Adelges tsugae)

Why we care: These tiny insects secrete white wax as they feed on sap from hemlock shoots and branches. Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) feeding can kill needles, shoots and branches. Over time, growth slows as trees become less vigorous and trees may take on a grayish-green appearance. Infested hemlocks, especially large, old trees, are often killed when other stress factors, such as drought, affect trees.

What is at risk? More than 100 million mature hemlocks grow in Michigan. Hemlocks provide important habitat and winter cover for many wildlife species.

The threat: HWA populations are common in many eastern states, including Pennsylvania. Eggs and very young adelgids can be carried by birds and can be moved on hemlock nursery trees, logs or firewood.

What could happen in Michigan? Much of the state's hemlock resource is relatively old and very vulnerable to HWA. If this pest becomes established, most of these trees will be killed.

What can you do? If you notice white, waxy material at the base of the needles on hemlock trees, to prevent spread, do not remove potentially infested material from the site, take photos, note the location of the affected trees and report it.



Hemlock branch infested with HWA

Elizabeth Willhite. USDA Forest Service. Bugwood.org



Infested hemlock tree

James Johnson, Georgia Forestry Commission, Bugwood.org



Report Suspect Forest Pest Infestations in Michigan

Email: MDA-Info@michigan.gov

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

Midwest Invasive Species Information Network: www.misin.msu.edu

Learn more: www.michigan.gov/HWA and www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/hwa

Don't Move Firewood!

