



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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DIRECTOR

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To: Pesticide application businesses licensed in categories 2 (forestry), 3b (ornamental) or 6 (right of way) in Allegan, Kent, Muskegon, Oceana and Ottawa counties,

This letter is to make you aware of a new serious exotic pest problem in Muskegon and Ottawa counties. The pest is called hemlock woolly adelgid or HWA.

HWA is a tiny, aphid-like insect that feeds on the sap of hemlock shoots and branches. HWA can kill hemlock trees in as little as 4 years and is responsible for the death of hundreds of thousands of hemlock trees in eastern states. Its establishment threatens the more than 170 million hemlock trees that grow in Michigan's forests and landscapes.

In 2015 and 2016, HWA was found infesting hemlock trees in multiple locations in Park and Port Sheldon townships and Spring Lake in Ottawa County; and Norton Shores and Whitehall in Muskegon County.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) sent letters to property owners in and around the known infestation sites advising them to inspect their hemlock trees for HWA and to consider insecticide treatment when necessary. Because this notification may result in contacts to your firm, we are providing you with the latest treatment information provided by Michigan State University (MSU) Extension.

Proper identification of the pest is critical. HWA appears as a white cottony mass attached to the twig at the base of needles during the life stage that is most easily seen.

Hemlock trees can be effectively protected from HWA with proper insecticide treatments as described in the enclosed MSU Extension bulletin: "Options for Protecting Hemlock Trees from Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, *DRAFT*, September 2016."

For more information on HWA and its management, please see the enclosed fact sheet: "Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in Michigan – Recommendations for Landowners, September 2016."

The enclosed documents and additional information about HWA can be found on MDARD's website at: www.michigan.gov/HWA