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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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To: Muskegon and Ottawa county property owners in and around areas infested with Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

This letter is to inform you of a new serious invasive pest problem in your area and to enlist your help in controlling it. 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.

What can you do?

If you have hemlock on your property that has not been inspected for the presence of HWA, please inspect them or have them inspected by a qualified arborist. 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. If you find evidence of HWA on any of your trees, it is critical that you consider treatment of your hemlock with insecticides. This is not only for the health of your trees, but for the health of all Michigan hemlock!

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

The licensed pesticide application businesses in Allegan, Kent, Muskegon, Oceana and Ottawa counties have been notified of the HWA situation in your area and have been provided HWA treatment and management information to better assist you if you so desire.

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