

Forest Pest Alert

Balsam Woolly Adelgid

(Adelges piceae)

Detected in Michigan

Report this species to:

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, [MDA-Info@michigan.gov](mailto:Info@michigan.gov) or phone the MDARD Customer Service Center, (800) 292-3939.

If possible, please take one or more photos of the invasive species you are reporting. Also make note of the location, date and time of the observation. This will aid in verification of your report. You may be asked to provide your name and contact information if follow-up is needed.

- Or - use the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network (MISIN) online reporting tool - <http://www.misin.msu.edu/report/>

- Or - download the MISIN smartphone app and report from your phone - <http://www.misin.msu.edu/tools/apps/#home>

Why we care: Balsam woolly adelgid (BWA) is a sap-feeding insect that attacks true fir trees, including balsam fir and Fraser fir. Repeated attacks weaken trees, cause twig gouting, kill branches and, over the course of several years, cause trees to die.

What is at risk? There are nearly 1.9 billion balsam fir trees in Michigan's forests. And, as the third-largest Christmas tree-growing state in the country, Michigan produces nearly 13.5 million fir trees each year, grown on over 11,500 acres. True fir trees, including forest, landscape and Christmas trees, are susceptible. Small (less than 1/32nd of an inch) purplish-black adults form white, waxy "wool" covering twigs, branches and stems of infested trees (see photo). Smaller, amber-

colored crawlers hatch in mid-summer. This is the mobile stage, when risk of movement by wind and wildlife is highest.

The threat: BWA can be introduced into Michigan in a number of ways, including infested nursery stock, firewood, logs and vehicles. Once here, wind, birds and animals can carry this insect for miles.

What could happen in Michigan? Accidentally introduced to southeastern Canada from Europe around 1900, BWA is already established in, and continues to threaten, fir trees in the Pacific Northwest, several northeastern states and the Central Atlantic states. In Great Smoky Mountains National Park, for example, 95% of Fraser firs have been killed by BWA.

What you can do? If you notice white, waxy material on twigs, branches or stems, or twig gouting on fir trees, do not move them! Take photos, note the location and report it!



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Learn more: www.Michigan.gov/Invasives and <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/fidls/bwa.pdf>

Don't Move Firewood!