



Michigan's New Balsam Woolly Adelgid Quarantine

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The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) has established a new exotic pest quarantine – the **Balsam Woolly Adelgid Quarantine**. Why another quarantine? Balsam woolly adelgid (BWA) is not known to occur in Michigan presently, AND we don't want it here.

What is balsam woolly adelgid, *Adelges piceae* (Ratzeburg) anyway? It is a small sap-feeding insect pest (less than 1/32 of an inch long) that attacks and feeds on true fir trees (*Abies* spp.). BWA originated in Europe, and according to the USDA Forest Service, BWA was accidentally introduced into Maine in 1908. It is currently established in several provinces in Canada, the Pacific Northwest, and a number of northeastern and Central Atlantic states.

The adults are purplish-black in color and form a white, waxy 'wool' which covers twigs, stems, and branches of infected trees. In mid-summer smaller amber-colored crawlers hatch. This mobile stage is when the risk of new infestations is greatest, as these crawlers can be moved by wind, birds, and other wildlife. Keep in mind that man can move this pest at any stage. Repeated attacks and feeding by this insect pest weaken trees, causes twig gouting and branch death, and after several years of infestation will result in the death of entire trees.

You are already familiar with another exotic insect pest that invaded Michigan a number of years ago – Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). As you know, EAB has already been responsible for the death of millions of ash trees in Michigan and the expenditure of millions of dollars in an attempt to either eradicate it or control it. We certainly don't want to experience a similar devastation of our landscapes and forest cover, nor do we want to deal with the tremendous expense of another exotic pest invasion of the likes of EAB.

Consider this: BWA would impact all the true fir species in our state. Michigan is the third largest Christmas tree growing state in the country, producing around 13.5 million fir trees each year. In addition, there are nearly 1.9 billion balsam fir trees in our forests here in Michigan. If BWA were to become established in Michigan it would be a tremendous blow to many industries in our state. Timber products, Christmas trees, nursery stock, and tourism are a few of the industries likely to be the most impacted. This quarantine is intended to help keep BWA from entering the state from areas where it now occurs. In Great Smoky Mountains National Park (along the border of Tennessee and North Carolina), for example, 95% of Fraser firs have been killed by BWA. This is a big deal. Hence the quarantine.

What will the quarantine mean to you? First and foremost it is meant to raise your awareness level of this pest. If you come across anything on your fir trees that you think might possibly be BWA, please note the location, take photographs if possible, and report it to MDARD immediately. Additionally, the quarantine is designed to keep BWA regulated articles from BWA regulated areas out of Michigan, and to allow properly

certified BWA regulated articles into Michigan. Nursery growers and dealers, landscapers and customers will all have a role to play in understanding and helping to enforce this quarantine. MDARD cannot do it alone.

The following excerpts are part of the new Balsam Woolly Adelgid Quarantine:

III. REGULATED AREAS

The entire states of California, Idaho, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia. The entire Canadian provinces of British Columbia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Prince Edward Island. Any other areas where balsam woolly adelgid is found to be established.

IV. REGULATED ARTICLES

Balsam woolly adelgid, *Adelges piceae* (Ratzeburg) in any living form. Nursery stock; and any of the following forest products with bark attached including: branches, boughs, logs, lumber, and firewood of all true firs (*Abies* spp.). A partial listing of the most common true firs can be found in the full text of the quarantine.

V. EXEMPTIONS

1. Holiday greenery, such as cut Christmas trees, wreaths, boughs, and grave blankets, from all true fir species if moved during the period of October 15 through January 1.
2. Douglas-fir, *Pseudotsuga* spp.
3. Composted or shredded bark and mulch of all true fir species.
4. Lumber, logs, firewood, and other forest products of all true fir species with all bark completely removed.
5. Lumber, pallets, and similar products that bear markings as being compliant with International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures No. 15, including American Lumber Standards Committee requirements for Kiln Dried (KD), Heat Treatment (HT), Dielectric Heat treatment (DH) or Kiln Dried Heat Treatment (KDHT) procedures.
6. Lumber and posts which have been treated with wood preservatives compounds, i.e. pressure treated with chromated copper arsenate or similar treatments.
7. Seeds and cones of *Abies* spp.
8. The Director may allow, with written approval, the movement of regulated articles from regulated areas, into Michigan for research purposes.

VI. RESTRICTIONS

Except as provided in Section V, all regulated articles are prohibited entry into Michigan from any regulated area unless each lot or shipment is accompanied by an official certificate evidencing compliance with paragraphs (1) or (2) or (3) in this Section.

1. Originating from a pest-free area: Regulated articles are approved for entry into Michigan from a regulated area when they meet certain criteria (more specific information can be found in the full text of the quarantine).
2. Production under an active pest management program: Seedlings and transplants of true fir species no greater than three years old from the initial date of propagation may be certified for shipment into Michigan.
3. Heat treatment: Firewood with bark attached may be certified if the article has undergone heat treatment to a minimum core temperature of 56 degrees C. (132.8 degrees F.) for a minimum of 30 minutes.

VII. CERTIFICATION AND SHIPPING REQUIREMENTS

Certificates - Upon issuance, a copy of the State Phytosanitary Certificate or Certificate of Quarantine Compliance or equivalent certification document must be faxed to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division, Attention: Nursery Program Specialist at (517) 335-4540; or, may be e-mailed by first contacting the Nursery Program Specialist at (517) 284-5648.

Regulated articles originating either from within or outside of a regulated area - Must be accompanied by a State Phytosanitary Certificate or Certificate of Quarantine Compliance or equivalent certification documents indicating the state and county of origin, the number and type of regulated articles, **and containing a specific declaration appropriate to the specific commodity as outlined in the full text of the quarantine.**

Requirement to hold regulated articles upon receipt in Michigan - Persons receiving regulated articles from interstate or international sources may not sell or further distribute the regulated articles unless a written release is issued to the consignee by the Department; or, unless the person is operating under a compliance agreement with the Department.

VIII. RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS

Persons receiving regulated articles from interstate or international sources **shall retain** a copy of shipping records, invoices, waybills, bills of lading, State Phytosanitary Certificates, Certificates of Quarantine Compliance, and equivalent certification documents **for a period of 36 months after receipt of the articles.**

Violations of this quarantine are of course subject to prosecution and could result in minimum fines of \$1,000 per instance. We take this very seriously, and ask that you do as well. Please familiarize yourself with the requirements of the Balsam Woolly Adelgid Quarantine, and for that matter all other quarantines that Michigan has in place. Help protect both your business and our wonderful state by helping us keep balsam woolly adelgid out of Michigan.



www.forestsformainesfuture.org



www.forestryimages.org

More information about the balsam woolly adelgid and the Balsam Woolly Adelgid Quarantine may be found at the following websites:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdard/BalsamWoollyAdelgid_3-14_453030_7.pdf

http://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-2390_46323---,00.html

References

Forest Pest Alert "Balsam Woolly Adelgid", Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Michigan Department of Natural Resources Publication, February 2014.

Balsam Woolly Adelgid Quarantine, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division, April 2014.