

WATCH FOR THIS PEST!

HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID

Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) is an exotic pest introduced into the US from Asia. It is relatively small and produces a white woolly mass under which it feeds and lays eggs. It attacks eastern, Carolina and several exotic hemlocks. Currently it is well established in 11 states along the eastern seaboard.



Young hemlock twigs with white woolly masses - a symptom of HWA

Photos: M.S. McClure

This serious pest is not established in Vermont, New Hampshire or Maine, but it occurs in forests near our borders. Several individual infestations on introduced nursery stock have recently been discovered in New Hampshire & Maine and are being eradicated. We are looking for it. Please help!



Discolored needles and dieback caused by HWA

HWA has caused widespread decline and mortality of hemlocks. Thousands of acres of hemlock forests and many trees in suburban communities have been destroyed. They are found on the undersides of the foliage at the base of the needles. Here they insert their mouthparts and suck sap. This slows growth, causes needle discoloration and eventually kills the tree.

Research is underway to develop biological controls for HWA. In some situations insecticides may be used but they cannot be applied along stream banks or in wetlands where hemlocks commonly grow.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR?

- ☛ **Twig dieback and/or premature needle drop**
- ☛ **White woolly masses at the base of needles of young twigs**
- ☛ **Unhealthy grayish-green needles that normally are dark green**

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- Check your hemlocks to see if HWA may be present.
- If they are, note the exact location of the suspect tree.
- Immediately call one of the following numbers to report your find:

VT Forestry: (802) 241-3606

Agriculture: (802) 828-2431

DO NOT cut down or move any part of the suspect tree.