

Pest Alert

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Northeastern Area
NA-PR-03-94

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

The hemlock woolly adelgid, *Adelges tsugae*, has been in the United States since 1924. This introduced insect, believed to be a native of Asia, is a serious pest of eastern hemlock and Carolina hemlock. In the eastern United States it is present from the Smoky Mountains, north to the mid-Hudson River Valley and southern New England.

White cottony sacs at the base of the needles are good evidence of a hemlock woolly adelgid infestation. These sacs resemble the tips of cotton swabs. They are present throughout the year, but are most prominent in early spring.

The hemlock woolly adelgid feeds during all seasons with the greatest damage occurring in the spring. It is dispersed by wind, birds and mammals.

By sucking sap from the young twigs, the insect retards or prevents tree growth causing needles to discolor from deep green to grayish green, and to drop prematurely. The loss of new shoots and needles seriously impairs tree health. Defoliation and tree death can occur within several years.



Photo 1. Egg masses produced by overwintering adults.



Photo 3. Hemlock stand heavily damaged by hemlock woolly adelgid.



Photo 2. Discolored foliage and twig dieback caused by feeding nymphs.

For additional information contact your State Forester, State Entomologist, State Extension Specialist, or County Agricultural Agent.



USDA Forest Service
P. O. Box 640
Durham, NH 03824
(603) 868-5719

USDA Forest Service
180 Canfield St., PO Box 4360
Morgantown, WV 26505
(304) 285-1540

Technical Advisor, photo credits:
Mark McClure, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Reprinted by MSU Upper Peninsula Forestry Extension Office 06/02.

Michigan State University programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, or family status.