

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid



What are Hemlock Woolly Adelgids (HWA) ?

Juvenile HWA are small, invasive insects that attack North American hemlock trees. HWA can be observed as white woolly masses on the underside of branches at the base of needles. These insects insert their extended mouthparts into the tree and feed on stored starches.

HWA stay in one location for their whole lives, growing and feeding off of the infected tree. This feeding significantly damages the canopy of the tree by disrupting the flow of nutrients to twigs and needles, and can cause tree mortality in 4 to 10 years.

For more information visit:
www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7250.html

What Can Be Done?

- HWA are passively spread by wind, birds, animals and humans, meaning this insect can travel long distances and poses a significant threat to areas not presently impacted by the invasive species.
- New York is undertaking a biological control program to attempt to mitigate the spread of HWA. Biological control efforts include introducing predators of HWA into the affected environments to naturally decrease populations.
- Chemical insecticides are also utilized to treat trees that have already been infested or as a preventive measure in areas with a high risk of future infestations.
- There are regulations in place to monitor the transport of Hemlock wood to new locations to prevent the transfer of HWA.
- The DEC recommends thoroughly cleaning equipment that has come in contact with an infestation, and to leave all infested material where it was found.

1. "Hemlock Woolly Adelgid." Hemlock Woolly Adelgid - NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7250.html.

2. Centre, Invasive Species. Forest Invasives, forestinvasives.ca/Meet-the-Species/Insects/Hemlock-Woolly-Adelgid.