

What is the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA)?



Mark Whitmore, Cornell University

This aphid-like insect damages hemlock trees by sucking out moisture and nutrients while it feeds. More HWA facts:

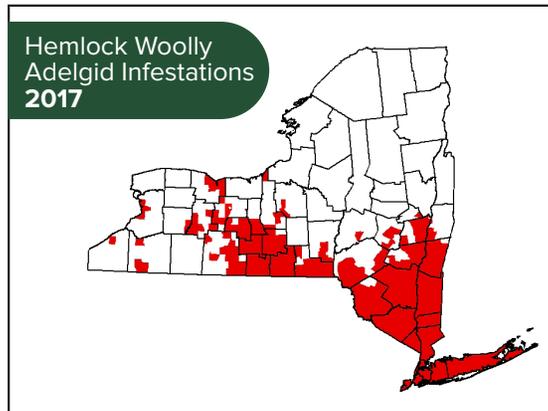
- Adults are purple-black, 1.5 mm long (barely visible)
- HWA stay attached to host trees most of their lives
- Woolly egg masses contain 50-300 eggs
- Eggs hatch into “crawlers” that spread to other trees, attaching to the underside of twigs near base of needles

Why are Eastern Hemlock Trees Important?

Eastern hemlocks (*Tsuga canadensis*) are highly beneficial to the environment. These evergreens prevent erosion and maintain water quality because they are well suited for growing along steep slopes, where their roots help stabilize the soil. Hemlocks have a dense canopy that offers ideal habitat for birds and other wildlife. They shade streams and rivers, providing the cold water conditions essential for many fish species, including brook trout.

Where is the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Found?

The hemlock woolly adelgid was first confirmed in New York State in the lower Hudson Valley in the 1980s and has since spread north and west.



Join Us in Combating this Invasive Insect!
To report the hemlock woolly adelgid or get more information, call 1-866-640-0652, e-mail foresthealth@dec.ny.gov, visit www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7250.html or scan the QR code below.



Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Lands and Forests
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STOP THE INVASION
PROTECT NEW YORK FROM INVASIVE SPECIES

HELP STOP THE HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID



These invasive insects are spreading throughout New York State and have the potential to devastate our hemlock population. Help us track this tree killer by learning to identify and report hemlock woolly adelgid infestations.



Department of Environmental Conservation

TWO WAYS TO HELP

How to Recognize Hemlock Trees

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Imposters

You may see these look-a-likes on hemlock trees.



Flat evergreen needles, ranging from 1/3 to 2/3-inch long



ELONGATE HEMLOCK SCALE
White or brown ovals on underside of needles (invasive insect - report to DEC)

1. Contact DEC if you see small woolly egg masses (1/16 to 1/8-inch) on the underside of hemlock branches. (The adult insect is tiny and difficult to see without a hand lens.) Hemlock trees that are infested often appear stressed and lose needles.

Two white parallel lines on the undersides of needles



SPITTLEBUGS
Wet mass of bubbles (not harmful)



2. Participate in a more in-depth survey for this insect by using the form at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/82617.html to document and report your findings to DEC. Submit the form online or by mail.



Cones about 1/2-inch long and green when immature



TREE SAP
Paint-like splatter (not harmful)



Gray-brown bark, with wide ridges and furrows



SPIDER EGG SACS
Large balls of webbing, often connecting multiple needles and twigs (not harmful)

