What is the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA)?

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

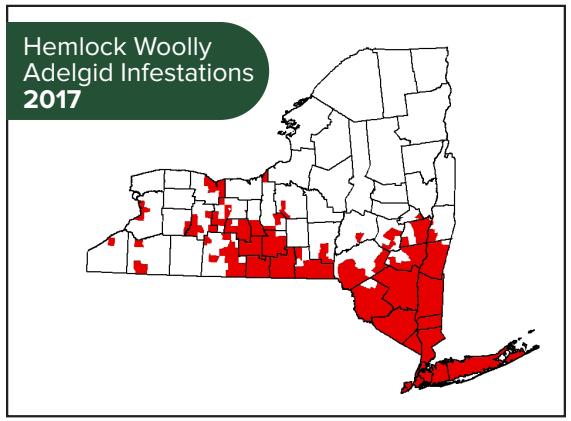
- Adults are purple-black, 1.5 mm long (barely visible)
- HWA stay attached to host trees most of their lives
- Woolly egg masses contain 50-300 eggs
- Eggs hatch into “crawlers” that spread to other trees, attaching to the underside of twigs near base of needles

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.

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. 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.

NEW YORK STATE Department of Environmental Conservation

TWO WAYS TO HELP

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.

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.

How to Recognize Hemlock Trees

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

Two white parallel lines on the undersides of needles

Cones about ½-inch long and green when immature

Gray-brown bark, with wide ridges and furrows

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Imposters

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

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

SPITTLEBUGS
Wet mass of bubbles (not harmful)

TREE SAP
Paint-like splatter (not harmful)

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