New York State Hemlock Initiative

Hemlock Trees and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

For more information:
www.nyshemlockinitiative.info
@nyshemlockinitiative

Eastern Hemlock
Tsuga canadensis

Eastern hemlock trees are the third most common tree in New York and are considered a **foundation species**, responsible for supporting the ecosystems they reside in.

Ecosystem Services:

- Hemlocks proliferate along streams and protect freshwater resources with shallow root systems that act as a natural filtration system.
- Direct shading of streams keeps water cool and snow melt slow in the spring, creating ideal habitat for cold water fish species.
- Hemlocks support critical habitats for forest communities, providing homes for migrating birds and obligate canopy arthropods and a winter food resources for deer, moose, and procupines

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid
Adelges tsugae

Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) is a devastating invasive forest insect pest that infests and kills native eastern hemlock trees.

A Spreading Threat:

- The first HWA detections in New York were found in the 1980s in the New York City and Long Island areas. By the late 1980s infestations had spread north into the Catskills, and in 2008 HWA was found in the Finger Lakes region. In 2017, the first Adirondack infestation was found and subsequently treated.
- HWA feeds directly from hemlock woody tissue by inserting its mouthparts into the twig. Over time as HWA populations increase, the damage prevents the tree from putting on new growth, causing widespread hemlock mortality.

Hemlock Identification

Hemlocks have **flat, round-tipped needles** that grow opposite each other on the twig. The needles have **two distinct white stripes on the underside**, and are dark green and shiny on top

Hemlocks are **evergreen conifers** that often grow together in groups called “stands”

Hemlocks have **small (< 1”) cones with rounded scales**. Their bark is rough and fissured, and has a reddish appearance as the tree matures

HWA Identification

HWA infestations look like waxy, woolly cotton balls that line hemlock twigs near the base of needles. Woolly masses are **most obvious between the months of November and May**.

In the summer months, check for HWA’s **tiny black sesame-seed shaped bodies** surrounded by a **thin halo of wool.**

Report HWA Findings

www.nyshemlockinitiative.info/report-hwa-finding