



Eastern Hemlock Pests



Eastern hemlocks (*Tsuga canadensis*), also known as Canadian hemlock, are important trees in our local ecosystems. This late-successional, shade-tolerant, foundational species provides critical habitat for both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife – not to mention its aesthetic value. Unfortunately, insect pests can threaten hemlock survival, and these benefits.

If you have eastern hemlock trees on your property, please keep an eye out for these pests!

hemlock woolly adelgid



Adelges tsugae is an invasive, non-native, aphid-like insect that attaches to the undersides of the base of hemlock needles and feeds on nutrients and sap. In all but the earliest life stages, a white woolly mass up to ~1/8" in diameter covers the dark insect – it's most prominently visible from November to May. Additional symptoms of HWA infestation include premature dieback, needle loss, and grey-green discoloration.

elongate hemlock scale



Fiorinia externa is a small non-native insect that feeds on conifer needles as adults (primarily hemlocks, firs, and spruces). Juvenile "crawlers" and winged male adults can move freely, while female adults don't move once they've begun feeding. The latter are the oblong, 1.5-2mm long, light or dark brown (sometimes white) scales attached to the underside of needles. Additional symptoms of EHS infestation include yellow banding on the tops of infested needles, premature needle drop, and limb dieback.

How to Look for These Pests

Eastern hemlock trees are easy to identify, thanks to the fine white stripes on the undersides of their needles, on either side of the mid-vein.

Check the undersides of hemlock branches for signs of the pests. Best practice is to check

as many branches as you can reach, including branches that have fallen to the ground.

Look for elongate hemlock scale on the underside of the individual needles year-round, and hemlock woolly adelgid at the base of the needles along the woody stem from late fall to early spring.

If you find them...

Please report your sightings of these pests! Your observations will help natural resources professionals monitor their spread, study their impacts, and investigate treatment options.

To report, you can:

Go to the ODNR HWA webpage to report your findings at: [ODNR.gov/hwa](https://odnr.gov/hwa) or call ODNR Division of Forestry at 614-265-6694. Please gather a quality photo and as much detail as you can about the location.

Log an observation using the **TreeSnap app** (free to download in your app store) or on [TreeSnap.org](https://treesnap.org)

Log an observation on [EDDMaps.org](https://eddmapping.org)

Don't:

Don't move infested tree material to new locations

Don't fertilize the trees – it improves pest survival

Don't encourage animals to feed in affected areas – it can accelerate the spread

Hemlock Pest Treatment Options

Chemical treatment options are highly effective at protecting hemlocks from damage. Options include basal bark sprays, soil drenches, and trunk injections. Contact a natural resources professional near you for additional information.

To give your trees a hand, prune to increase growth vigor and light availability, and water during drought to decrease stress.



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For more information, visit
<https://extension.psu.edu/elongate-hemlock-scales>
or
<https://ohiodnr.gov/hwa>