

## **National Arborist Association**



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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Help Arborists Stop Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and Save Hemlock Trees!**

Hemlock woolly adelgids invaded the United States in the 1920's. when they were somehow imported from Japan into the Pacific Northwest. Since then, adelgids have spread rapidly and are found in most regions of the U.S. where hemlock and spruce grow.

Adelgids prefer Canadian (eastern) hemlocks. If you live in New England and have hemlocks on your property you need to be concerned. Adelgids have already defoliated and killed large numbers of native Canadian hemlock trees throughout American forests.

Adelgids cause hemlocks trees to become weak and eventually die. Infested trees first begin to look thin with a lighter green color. This happens because the insects feed by sucking sap from twigs and foliage causing the trees to become weak and the needles to fall off. A serious infestation can defoliate a tree in as little as one year.

Adelgids are well-adapted to the New England climate because they are actually cool weather insects. This means you can find adult adelgids anytime of the year. Look for white globular masses of cottony/waxy tufts on bark, foliage, and twigs. Check the base of needles and small twigs especially close. The tufts you are looking for are actually protective covers for the adelgid's body that remain in place throughout their lifetime.

If you find adelgids on your hemlock - or neighbors in your area have had problems with hemlock woolly adelgids - do not panic. Unlike hemlock trees growing in the forest, treatment options are available for hemlocks growing on your property. Call an NAA-member tree care company for a plant health assessment and to find out more about treatment options.

A common, least-toxic recommendation to help prevent and eradicate adelgids is to spray twice a year with dormant oil, usually once in fall and once in late winter or spring.

To find a NAA member tree care company in your area contact the NAA at 1-800-733-2622 or visit our web site at [www.natlarb.com](http://www.natlarb.com).