

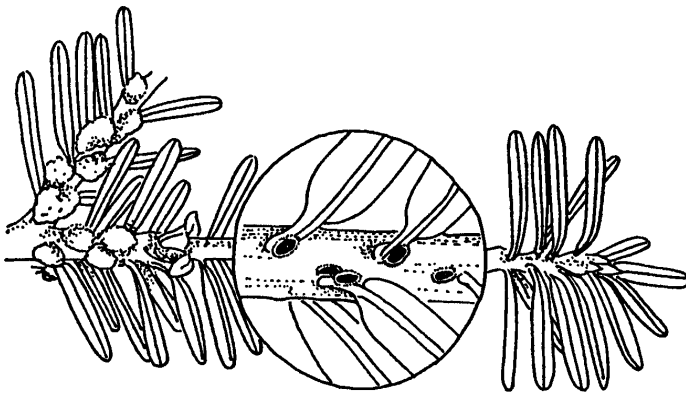
Pest Alert

**Hemlock
Woolly
Adelgid**

Total Tree Health Care — *Helping you save your hemlocks*

The Problem

Hemlock trees are dying by the thousands because of a destructive insect called the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA). If you have hemlock trees, you have probably noticed the white puff balls attached between the needles. The HWA is a sessile feeder, meaning that once it settles, it feeds in the same spot until it reproduces and dies. Each HWA is like a tiny incubation factory that feeds on your tree and lays eggs to produce even more adelgids. It is no surprise the HWA can quickly colonize your hemlocks.

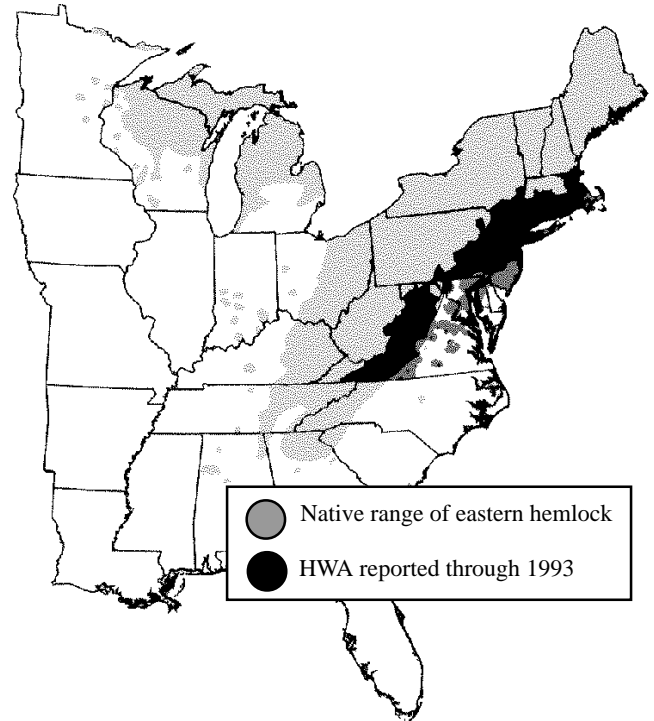


Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

**The infestation is fatal
*without treatment.***

From the moment a hemlock is infested, the tree slowly declines in vigor as it fights to survive the continuous feeding and spread of this exotic pest. The HWA literally sucks the life out of its host. Feeding by HWA causes the needles on infested branches to desiccate, turn a grayish-green to yellowish color, and then drop from the tree. The HWA prefers to feed on new twig growth. Most new buds are killed from this feeding, so little new growth is produced on infested branches. The once-lush canopy of the hemlock appears sparse, gray, and ghostly as the tree approaches death. Does this describe your tree? If your hemlocks have not declined thus far, consider yourself fortunate.

Introduced into the Pacific Northwest in the 1920's, the hemlock woolly adelgid was first reported in eastern Virginia in the early 1950's. Since then it has spread primarily northeastward and now occurs as far north as Connecticut and Rhode Island. It continues to spread southward and westward into the remaining natural range of the eastern hemlock. There are no known effective natural enemies to stop its spread. The primary host is eastern hemlock, with spruce being a possible secondary (alternative) host.



Distribution of hemlock woolly adelgid in eastern North America. (Source: USDA Forest Service)

The Solution

Although control of the hemlock woolly adelgid is unlikely in the forest setting at this time, there are steps you can take to combat this devastating pest in your home landscape. Total Tree Health Care is committed to bringing you the latest, safest, and most effective eradication measures available to ensure that your hemlocks remain healthy and pest free.

Continued...

The current conventional method for hemlock woolly adelgid control is the application of horticultural oil - a pesticide that smothers the insect. However, this incurs several disadvantages. Horticultural oil is applied to the tree foliage with a high-power sprayer and easily drifts, impacting non-target plants and insects. Since horticultural oil is a contact pesticide, timing of spray applications is essential. Adelgids are only completely vulnerable during the crawler stage of development before they have begun to produce their cottony wax covering. Additionally, it is crucial that 100% coverage is achieved for foliar applications to be effective. Single applications often fail to provide season-long control.

A new technique of applying a systemic pesticide via soil injection is now available. This is safe for your family, pets, landscape, and the environment. Soil injection incorporates an insecticide that is used systemically by your hemlocks to virtually eliminate the infestation - no sprays, no drift, no hassles.

Take Action Now

Total Tree Health Care wants you to enjoy the comfort of knowing that your trees can be saved. Take action now to save your beloved hemlocks and set up an appointment for a free consultation. We will help your trees recover with the best available treatment plan. Some of the benefits you will enjoy from our soil injection procedure include:

- Ⓡ No spray drift
- Ⓡ No exposure to people or pets
- Ⓡ Reduced impact on non-target fauna and beneficial insects
- Ⓡ No odor
- Ⓡ Non-toxic to plants

Now that you understand the rescue aspect of our approach to saving your hemlocks, where does recovery come into play? Sadly, many infested hemlocks become so stressed and damaged that simply removing the pest might not be enough to reverse tree decline. Additional environmental stresses such as drought can kill your adelgid-damaged hemlocks.

We make recovery possible with a fertilization program specifically designed for your damaged hemlocks. Our treatment procedure incorporates a fertilizer formula specially suited for your hemlocks. Using superior food grade forms of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium that are immediately available to the tree, our special formula is 100% usable by hemlocks, and gives them the boost they need to resume vigorous, healthy growth.

Our combination treatment gives your hemlocks their *best chance* to survive the ravages of the hemlock woolly adelgid.

Don't Delay

Sadly, inaction will be fatal for your precious hemlocks. Consider just some of the benefits of a healthy hemlock:

- Ⓡ Provides aesthetic appeal for its exceptional beauty
- Ⓡ Increases property value
- Ⓡ Provides cool shade on hot days
- Ⓡ Provides windbreak and color during winter
- Ⓡ Provides cover and nesting for wildlife

There's no doubt, hemlocks are among the most cherished trees. Consider now the cost of inaction:

- Ⓡ Loss of all the benefits of a live hemlock
- Ⓡ Dead trees become a liability and are not only dangerous to remove by yourself, but expensive to have removed (paying \$400-600 per tree is common in many residential settings).
- Ⓡ The loss of your precious hemlock is like the loss of a dear friend.

Take the necessary steps to save your hemlock and call us today for a free consultation. We are certain you won't be disappointed. Don't delay, because the clock is ticking. Total Tree Health Care is a locally owned and operated business. We are committed to friendly service and complete customer satisfaction.

Call today.

Total Tree Health Care

Quintin C. McClellan

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ISA Certified Arborist (MA-3180)

Find out what else we can do for your trees and shrubs.

Call today — (540) 552-3037