

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Initiative

USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry



Description: The hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) is a non-native insect pest of eastern and Carolina hemlocks. HWA now occurs from southern Maine to Georgia and as far west as Kentucky. This area is about half of the native range of hemlock in the eastern United States. The entire range of eastern hemlock may become infested within the next few decades. In Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, and portions of Pennsylvania extensive tree mortality and decline are common. This insect adversely affects many wildlife species that occur in the hemlock habitats.

Key Issues:

- HWA impacts are expected to intensify and spread throughout the range of eastern and Carolina hemlocks; HWA is rapidly spreading in the southern Appalachians.
- Hemlock is an ecologically important species in many habitats and irreplaceable for its biodiversity value and as an old growth species in the East.
- HWA threatens hemlock health and establishment of future hemlock stands in infested areas.
- There are few practical tools available to control HWA in forest areas.
- An HWA initiative is being implemented but additional management tools must be developed to minimize impacts and slow the spread of HWA.
- State foresters, state plant pest regulatory officials, and the US Forest Service consider HWA a high priority forest health issue.

Accomplishments:

- Supported biological control efforts in 14 states in 2007 (Connecticut, Georgia, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Maryland, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Virginia).
- Provided suppression and eradication assistance in 2007 to state and federal land managers in eleven states (Vermont, Maine, West Virginia, New Hampshire, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Michigan, North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and Virginia).
- Developed standardized HWA survey guidelines.
- Implemented an HWA initiative under guidance of a multi-agency steering committee.

Budget History:

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Initiative (\$ Thousands)				
	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Totals	\$1,766	\$1,193	\$1,213	

Future Direction:

- Continue to implement the HWA management initiative.
- Continue to establish and evaluate HWA natural enemies throughout the range of HWA.
- Develop HWA Best Management Practices for use of imidacloprid for HWA suppression.

Kathryn Maloney, Director
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073
610-557-4103 (4177-FAX)
kmaloney@fs.fed.us

<http://na.fs.fed.us>

Jerry Boughton, Assistant Director
Forest Health & Economics
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073
610-557-4180 (4136-FAX)
jboughton@fs.fed.us

Noel Schneeberger
Forest Health Program Leader
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073
610-557-4121 (4136-FAX)
nschneeberger@fs.fed.us

12/07/2007

