

WNLA email message

Dear WNLA member:

WI DATCP wants to make sure you are aware of requirements for bringing hemlock nursery stock into Wisconsin designed to protect our nursery and Christmas tree industries and our forests from invasive species. Wisconsin is one of 6 states that has a quarantine for the hemlock woolly adelgid (uh-DEL-jid) or HWA. HWA is a tiny, fluid-feeding insect that has killed millions of eastern and Carolina hemlocks in the eastern US. While it has never been found in Wisconsin, DATCP has an exterior quarantine known as [ATCP 21.16](#) that restricts movement of hemlock nursery stock. HWA eggs and adult females are covered with wax that looks like cotton swabs on the underside of hemlock branches. HWA crawlers, which emerge from eggs laid in May and June, have legs and can start new infestations. HWA females feed on hemlocks throughout winter and spring. HWA causes hemlocks to take on a gray-green appearance, killing them within 4 years. So, if you bring hemlock nursery stock to Wisconsin that was originally grown in CA, CT, DE, GA, ID, KY, ME, MD, MA, MI, NH, NY, NJ, NC, OH, OR, PA, RI, SC, TN, VT, VA, WA, WV, or DC, *even if you purchase it from a wholesaler not located in one of those states*, every shipment must either be accompanied with a phytosanitary certificate unless your business has a compliance agreement with DATCP documenting the source, date, size, method and frequency of hemlock shipments, as well as conditions that prevent the spread of HWA. Contact DATCP's Forest Pest Coordinator Tim Allen if you need a compliance agreement at Timothy.Allen@wisconsin.gov or 715-891-8158. More information about HWA is at: https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/HemlockWoollyAdelgid.aspx.

Unfortunately, HWA is not the only invasive species that threatens hemlocks. The Elongate Hemlock Scale, or EHS often co-occurs with HWA where it has been introduced in the eastern US, and these invasive species often work together to weaken and kill hemlocks. EHS occurs in CT, DE, ME, MD, MA, MI, NH, NJ, NV, NY, NC, OH, PA, RI, TN, VA and DC. Native to Asia, EHS not only feeds on hemlock, but it also feeds on balsam and Fraser Fir and spruce, which are among our most valuable Christmas trees. It feeds on the undersides of needles, sapping nutrients and weakening them. EHS produces multiple overlapping generations a year, with females and nymphs feeding, while winged non-feeding males mate and non-feeding mobile crawlers create new infestations. EHS protects itself under a hard, waxy coating, known as a "scale" visible on needle undersides. Because of this covering and crawlers that emerge throughout the season, EHS is difficult and expensive to treat with pesticides. EHS has never been found on the landscape in Wisconsin, although inspectors have detected it several times on hemlock nursery stock and cut fir Christmas trees. Although we don't have a quarantine for EHS, plants or plant parts found to be infested could be ordered destroyed or ordered to be treated per DATCP's pest abatement authority, resulting in costs or lost sales for your business. More information about EHS is at: https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/EHS.aspx



You can safeguard your business and help keep Wisconsin HWA and EHS-free by taking these precautions:

- Require suppliers to let you know where they are sourcing hemlocks, firs and other conifers you order. Explain to them that our state's HWA quarantine requires stock to be sourced from

outside the infested area or accompanied by a phyto (unless you have a CA), and that stock must also be EHS-free.

- Buy hemlocks, firs and spruces from outside known HWA and EHS infested areas.
- Inspect all hemlocks, conifers and other plant material for HWA, EHS, and other pests. Contact [your local inspector](#) if you think your plants might be infested.
- Keep your nursery license up to date and renew on or before the February 20 deadline each year. This is not only the law, but it also assures that you will have access to DATCPs pest and disease diagnostic services and all the latest information about invasive species like HWA and EHS. Remember, even arborists or landscapers are considered nursery dealers if you plant more than \$250 per year in herbaceous perennials, trees, or shrubs that you bill clients for in plant and replacement jobs.

Thank you for your partnership in this important effort!