

# Help for your Hemlocks

## A Landowner Guide

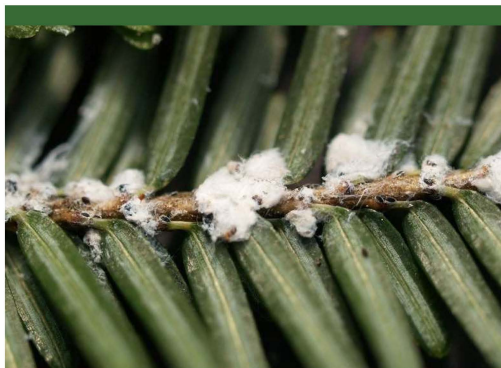
Hemlock trees are one of the most common trees found in the forests of the Southern Adirondacks. Hemlocks keep our waters cool and clean, provide valuable habitat for wildlife, and help fuel our tourism and timber economies.

Hemlocks in the Southern Adirondacks are now threatened by an invasive insect, hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA). Left unchecked, HWA can kill a hemlock tree in 4-10 years. Fortunately, the impacts of HWA can be reduced through forest management and/or chemical treatment of HWA-infected trees.

If you have HWA on your property, there is hope for your hemlocks!

Here are a few simple steps you can take to begin the process of caring for your hemlocks:

- Understand the importance of hemlock trees:  
<https://blogs.cornell.edu/nyshemlockinitiative/hemlock-woolly-adelgid/why-hemlock-trees/>
- Learn to identify HWA: <https://www.adkinvasives.com/Resources/HWA>
- Learn about management options:  
[https://harvardforest1.fas.harvard.edu/publications/pdfs/Orwig\\_HWA\\_fact\\_sheet\\_2005.pdf](https://harvardforest1.fas.harvard.edu/publications/pdfs/Orwig_HWA_fact_sheet_2005.pdf)
- Work with a professional to develop a forest management plan for your property:  
[warrenswcd.org/forestry/](http://warrenswcd.org/forestry/)



- Hemlock needles are:
- Dark Green
  - Short
  - Flat
  - Blunt-tipped &
  - Have two white “racing stripes” on the underside
  - Can’t be rolled between your fingers



For more information, contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District Office.

Essex County: [essexcountyswcd.org](http://essexcountyswcd.org) 518-962-8225

Warren County: [warrenswcd.org](http://warrenswcd.org) 518-623-3119

Washington County: [washingtoncountyswcd.org](http://washingtoncountyswcd.org) 518-692-9940 ext. 5



## More Information for Landowners

### Forest Management Plan Assistance

Well-crafted forest stewardship and management plans, developed by experienced professionals, are essential for preserving the health and value of your forest. Landowners in the Southern Adirondacks can access expert guidance on creating these plans - including strategies for managing threats like hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) - through various resources, such as:

- **The USDA NRCS** may fund forest management plans through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Go to: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-10/Forest%20Management%20Plans.pdf>, or contact your local USDA or Soil and Water Conservation District office for more information.
- Your county **Soil and Water Conservation District** may also have a forest assistance program. For example, Warren County SWCD can develop plans for smaller woodlot owners at no cost. In Warren County call 518-623-3119 or visit [warrenswcd.org/forestry/](http://warrenswcd.org/forestry/) for more information on forest management planning or general forestry information.
- The **NYSDEC** has a forest stewardship program, whereby a state forester can schedule and meet with you for a site visit for a review of your site recommendations. Call your local NYSDEC office to speak with a forester: <https://dec.ny.gov/about/contact-us/statewide-office-information>.
- **NYSDEC** also supports a Cooperating Forester Program, <https://dec.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2024-07/cooperatingforesterlist.pdf>, where consulting foresters can be contacted and potentially contracted to develop plans.
- An **arborist or certified pesticide applicator** can advise you if you have only a few trees that need attention. Find arborists in your area at: <https://nysarborists.com/>.
- Find a pesticide applicator experienced in treating invasive species, including HWA at: <https://adkinvasives.com/data/files/Terrestrial%20Contractors%20List%202024.pdf>.
  - The cost of chemical treatment for HWA control varies widely. It is recommended that the landowner get more than one quote from a licensed pesticide applicator to compare costs. Variables that may influence the cost of treatment for your property include:
    - The chemical(s) to be used (imidacloprid, dinotefuran, or a combination)
    - The application method to be used (soil application, basal bark spray, or injection)
    - The number and size of trees to be treated
    - The terrain of your property