

Town of Cape Elizabeth - Public Works Department – Community Forestry

Trees along our roadways, public lands and town forests are important environmental assets for Cape Elizabeth. Our goal is to keep our trees and forest healthy by sharing important information to the public.

Summary for Cape Elizabeth:

- Winter Moth activity seems light this year, only two reports provided to the Town.
- Hemlock Woolly Adelgid continues to affect Hemlock trees in all areas.
- Emerald Ash Borer has been found in Cape Elizabeth and is expected to further impact and decline Ash trees area wide.
- We encourage the public to report any sightings to the Town to assist in ongoing monitoring. Please send information to tree.warden@capeelizabeth.org.



Tree Alerts – Active Cape Elizabeth tree and forest alerts:

Invasive insect threats:

Winter Moth - The Town of Cape Elizabeth and its residents have waged a multi-year battle against Winter Moth. November reports in Cape Elizabeth have been sporadic and light. Tree banding, treatments and bio-controls hopefully reduced this pest as it has in other outbreak areas of Cape Cod and Nova Scotia. For more information see web Maine Forest Service web link:

[Winter Moth: Forest Health & Monitoring: Maine Forest Service: Maine DACF](#)

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) – Our native Eastern Hemlock is under serious threat both in residential neighborhood landscape setting and our town woodlands. Recommendations include inspecting Hemlock trees for white cottony adelgids under the needles, this pest can be treated by commercial arboriculture firms and biocontrol options are available with advanced notice.

[Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Overview: Forest Health & Monitoring: Maine Forest Service: Maine DACF](#)

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) – Emerald Ash Borer is another serious invasive insect threat that only affects Ash trees. EAB has been found in Cape Elizabeth in 2023. Best to consider preventative treatments to healthy heritage size trees or those important to home landscapes soon. As with HWA, this pest can be treated by commercial arborists, though the long-term success is unknown. Review these helpful EAB web links from the Maine Forest Service:

[Emerald Ash Borer \(EAB\) Updates : Forest Health & Monitoring : Maine Forest Service : Maine Agriculture, Conservation, Forestry \(DACF\)](#)

[Ash Treatment Guide \(maine.gov\)](#)

[List of Licensed Pesticide Applicators Willing to Treat Browntail Moth and/or Hemlock Woolly Adelgid: Browntail Moth \(*Euproctis chrysorrhoea*\): Forest Health & Monitoring: Bureau of Forestry: Maine DACF](#)

Beech Leaf Disease (BLD) - Beech Leaf Disease has been found in mid-coast Maine and greater Portland. At this time, it is on the watch here in Cape Elizabeth. It affects both native American Beech and non-native European Beech trees. See info link and report sightings:

[Beech Leaf Disease : Forest Health & Monitoring: Bureau of Forestry: Maine DACF](#)

Maine Forest Service – Forest Health & Monitoring Information:



Winter Moth



What?

A hardwood defoliator from Europe

When (Detection/Likely Arrival)?

2011/late 2000s

Where?

Coastal Maine



How to respond?

Natural enemy friendly landscapes

Pesticide treatment of high-value ornamental/street trees

Introduce biological control

Bare root plant sales

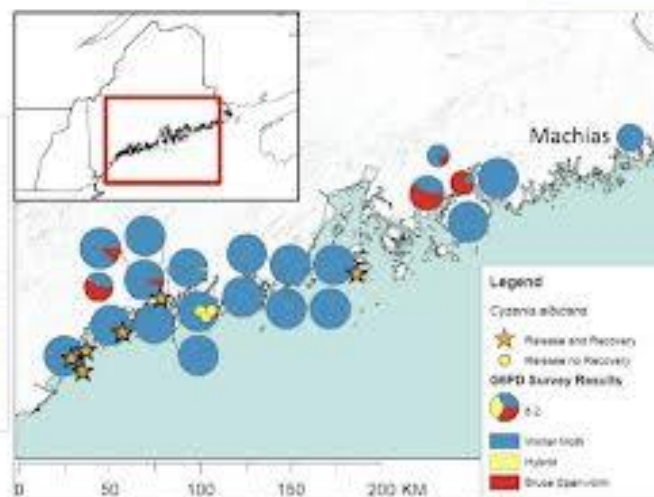
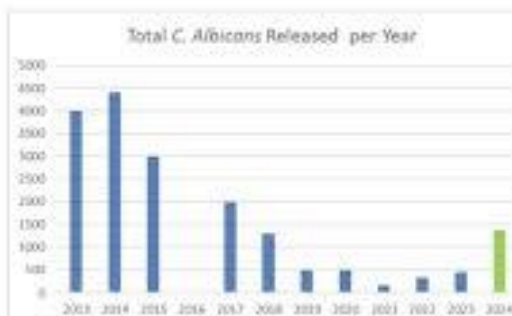
Share information



Winter Moth



Damage reported in coastal locations from Kittery to MDI



Map: Jeremy Anderson, UMASS Amherst



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid



What?

A sucking pest of hemlock

When (Detection/Likely Arrival)?

NA: 1950s/mid-40s;

ME: 2003/late 90's

Where?

ME: Coastal Counties except Washington; Kennebec Co.

How to respond?

Manage hemlock (forest)

Monitor for detection

Consider alternative landscaping

Introduce biological control

Follow low risk practices

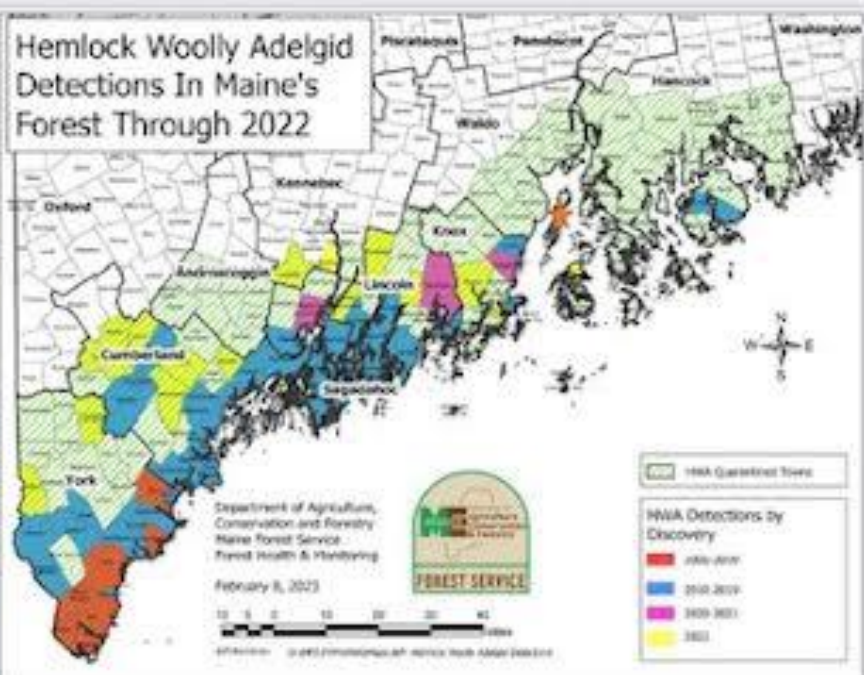
- Aug-Feb least risk of spreading pest during management activities
- Don't move rooted hemlock to *uninfested* areas



First Waldo Co. Detection in 2023, Islesboro



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Detections In Maine's Forest Through 2022





Emerald Ash Borer



What?

A small, metallic green beetle from Asia, attacks ash trees leading to decline and death

When (Detection/Likely Arrival)?

NA: 2002 (mid-90s); ME: 2018 (mid 20-teens)

Where?

ME: York, Oxford, Cumberland, Androscoggin, Kennebec, Penobscot,

Aroostook Counties.

How to respond?

Monitor ash

Manage ash

Collect seeds



Follow Best Management Practices

Introduce biological control

Adapted from K. Coluzzi MeDAF



Quarantine

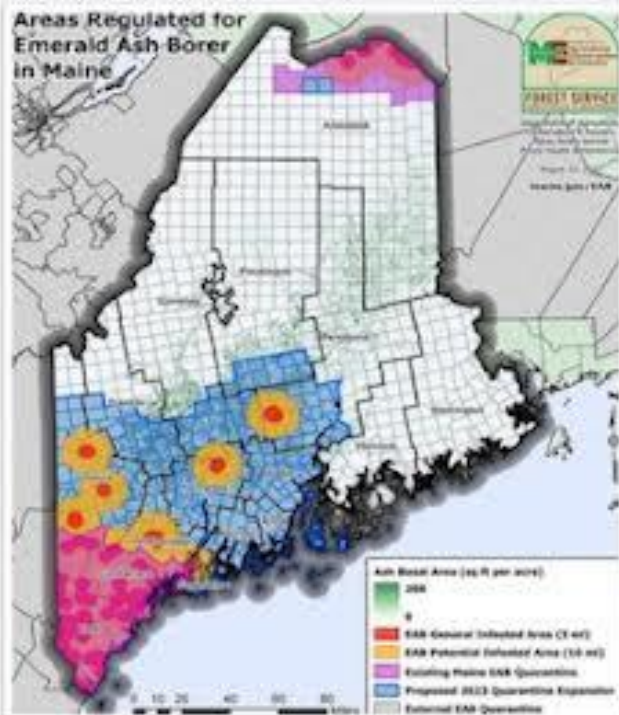
The emerald ash borer: firewood of all hardwood species; trees and parts of trees in the genus *Fraxinus* (including logs, stumps, roots, branches) CAN BE MOVED ONLY:

Within quarantined areas – movement of a regulated article solely within the quarantined area of the state is allowed without restriction.

Out of a quarantined area with a certificate, or permit, or compliance agreement (through DACF)

Out of a quarantined area without a certificate – only by a DACF official for experimental or scientific purposes.

Don't Mistake Quarantine for Best Practice!





1 From May to September, beetles mate and the female lays 60-90 eggs, one at a time, in crevices all over the bark of healthy ash trees.

Eggs



1/25 of an inch long



2 Eggs hatch as larvae, which tunnel through bark and into tree's cambial tissue. In winter, the larvae zig zag while feeding on cambial tissue that disrupts the tree's vascular tissue, eventually killing the tree.

Larvae



Mature larvae are about an inch long



3 When warmer weather arrives (usually in April), larvae enter the pupal stage. They transform from larvae into sexually mature adults.

Pupae

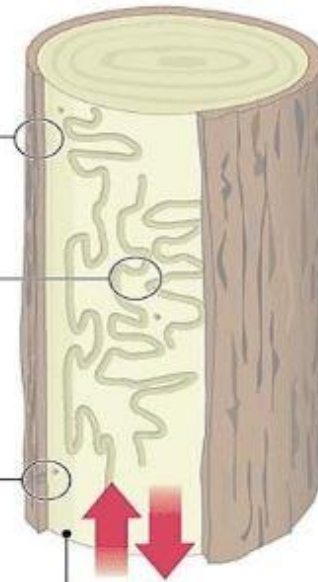


4 In mid to late May, the pupae turn into beetles and emerge through holes the larva left in the bark.

Beetle



Adult beetles are 1/3 to 1/2 inches long.



Cambial tissue:
The transportation system that takes water, minerals, and nutrients throughout the tree.

5 The cycle begins again as male and females feed on leaves at the top of trees and begin mating and laying eggs for three to four weeks before dying.

