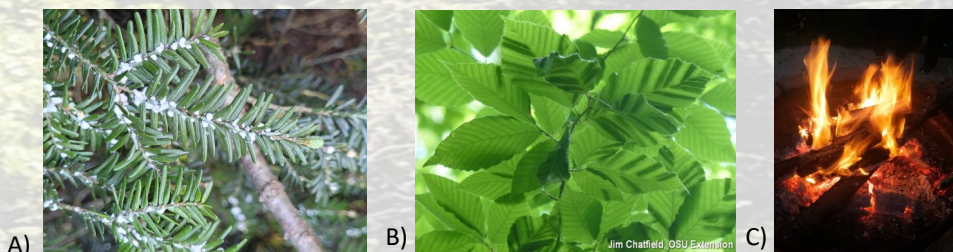


It has been a warm couple of weeks in Michigan and many folks are out and about outside! Whether it is kayaking, hiking, or sprucing up your yard, please take preventative action to prevent the spread of invasive species to new areas. This includes picking off seeds and burs from your clothing, cleaning your shoes, and removing vegetation from your watercraft and trailers before leaving lakes and rivers.

Forest Health: Tips and Suggestions to Prevent the Spread of Pests

If you have been keeping up with invasive species news alerts and our social media feeds, you will notice that we have been seeing a few new invasive species showing up in our region that directly impact forests. Last year we were notified of spotted lanternfly being found in Oakland County, and some landowners have been managing oak wilt and spongy moth infestations for the past few years. Recently, the presence of both hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) and beech leaf disease (BLD) was confirmed in Washtenaw County. HWA is an insect that infests eastern hemlock trees and is originally from East Asia. It feeds by sucking sap from hemlock trees which can result in the death of needles, shoots and branches. BLD is associated with a nematode that results in damaged beech leaves and eventual tree death. While there is approved treatment for HWA, none currently exists for BLD.



Symptoms of HWA include fuzzy cotton like balls at the base of needles (A) while BLD has dark banding between leaf veins (B). Buying firewood where you plan on burning it is one way to prevent the spread of invasive species ©. BLF Photo Credit: Jim Chatfield

Steps people can take to try and prevent the spread of forest pests include: buying firewood where you plan on burning it, inspecting RV's and outdoor furniture for eggs and insects, and using a boot brush to clean your shoes when leaving parks. In areas with known HWA or BLD infestations, folks should wash all clothing and decontaminate shoes immediately. People should avoid hanging bird feeders near hemlock or beech trees.

For More Information:

1. JLW CISMA. 2023. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. Link: jlwcisma.weebly.com/hwa.html
2. State of Michigan. 2023. Beech Leaf Disease. Link: michigan.gov/invasives/id-report/disease/beech-leaf-disease
3. The Nature Conservancy. 2023. Don't Move Firewood. Link: dontmovefirewood.org

Invasive Species Spotlight—Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

- *Adelges tsugae* is a small aphid insect that harms hemlock trees
- They are sap sucking insects whose feeding activities prevent nutrients from reaching twigs and leaves
- Adults are about 2 mm long, and females lay eggs at the base of the leaves (resembles small white woolly cotton balls)



Photo Credit: S. Singh

Native Species Spotlight—American Beech

- *Fagus grandifolia* is a deciduous tree native to eastern North America
- Tree height can reach up to 100 ft
- Smooth, thin gray bark
- Has alternate leaves that are 2.5 to 6 in long with 10-14 lateral veins on each side of the leaf
- Wood can be used for tool handles



Photo Credit: MDNR

Upcoming Events

June 22th—NW RISCC. Spreading Information Not Invasives: Amplifying Climate Change and First Foods Considerations in an Invasive Species Knowledge Sharing Hub, 12:00pm to 1:00pm. Registration required: washington.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_00BR1oIbSVyYZ0UrhbUfNQ?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery#/registration

July 13th—Not MI Species: Can this moth help save monarchs? Swallow-wort biological control, 9:00am to 10:00am. Registration required: us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_345a410JT7yR4QSnyTCICA#/registration



Website of the Month

Now that summer is here, some families may be considering visiting national parks and historical sites. Every 4th grade student and their family is eligible for a free access pass to a variety of parks for one year. Visit this website to learn more about the program!

everykidoutdoors.gov/about.htm

If you have questions, please contact JLW CISMA Coordinator Dr. Shikha Singh at shikha.singh@macd.org or (517) 395 - 2089.

Visit our website for more events and resources: jlwcisma.weebly.com



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