

# HWA in the Canandaigua Lake Watershed



Though the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid was detected in the Finger Lakes Region in 2008, it has only been recently discovered in our own watershed. Detecting new HWA infestations at the leading edge of its range is critically important for slowing the spread of HWA. Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association asks you to join with us in the detection of HWA in our area.

## Identification Tips

- **Best Time for detection is between January and May**
- **Check underside of branches near the ground, and examine branches that fall to the ground after a storm**
- **Looks like a tiny ball of cotton attached to twigs and the base of needles on Hemlock trees**
- **Examine bark of tree for tell tale wisps of the waxy wool**
- **When examining trees from afar, look for a gray foliage tint**
- **Compare with the photo here, and others on the New York Invasive Species Clearinghouse website: [www.nyis.info](http://www.nyis.info)**

## Why are Hemlocks so important to the Lake?

HWA poses a serious threat to watershed health as hemlocks act as a keystone species in this community. Hemlocks typically grow in gullies where their roots hold the soil in place on steep slopes. When hemlocks in these locations die, the slopes are more susceptible to soil erosion, which can lead to water quality issues. Soils hold nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen, and excessive nutrients in a lake can result in unwanted algal blooms, aquatic ecosystem damage, and poor water quality. Without hemlock to protect the integrity of the ecological community, areas become easily degraded.

*If you suspect Hemlock trees on your property may be infected with HWA, call the CLWA office at (585) 394-5030, or send us an email at:*

[info@canandaigualakeassoc.org](mailto:info@canandaigualakeassoc.org)

*Your early detection will help us gain a clearer picture of HWA coverage in our watershed.*

## Identifying Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)

The Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) is not common overall in the Finger Lakes but grows in very strategic locations, such as ravines and gullies. Hemlocks like moisture and tolerate shade so they have gown up in gullies where other trees and shrubs cant.

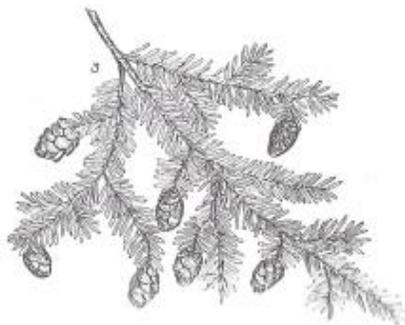
Slow growing Eastern Hemlocks but can reach one hundred feet tall at maturity after 250-300 years or growth. They are pyramidal in shape and have drooping branches. Their needles are flat and rather blunt. The needs are arranged in pairs on two sides of a twig, glossy green on top and pale green underneath with two white lines on the underside of each needle. Hemlocks have the smallest cones, less than an inch in length, of any local evergreen. They often grow in association with Eastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) and Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) but are totally different in structure from either.

Hemlocks have been part of the Finger Lakes landscape for over 10,000 years, since the retreat of the last glaciers from this area.



BARK

- The bark of the Hemlock starts out flaky or scaly on young trees; then transitions to deep furrows with irregular ridges on mature trees.
- Bark can range from grayish-brown to reddish-brown.
- Freshly cut bark shows purplish streaks.



A line drawing from *Pennsylvania Trees*,  
By Joseph S. Illick 1928