



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL
28 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

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Memorandum

To: Board of Pesticides Control

From: John Pietroski | Manager of Pesticide Programs | Maine Board of Pesticides Control

Subject: Balsam Woolly Adelgid

Date: June 9, 2023

Staff received a request to add Balsam Woolly Adelgid (BWA) to the policy on “Approved Invasive Invertebrate Pests On Ornamental Vegetation In Outdoor Residential Landscapes For Neonicotinoids Exemption.” BWA is an invasive insect introduced into the United States around 1900.

The BPC was contacted by a commercial applicator who previously used neonicotinoids to treat BWA. The addition of BWA to the above policy would allow applicators to use neonicotinoids for the purpose of managing BWA in outdoor ornamental vegetation in residential landscapes. Pests not listed on the above policy may not be managed through the application of neonicotinoids in residential landscapes unless an emergency use permit is obtained from the Board.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, *In Europe, host trees are relatively insensitive to attack and the insect is not considered a significant forest pest. In North America, however, it has caused significant damage and mortality to true firs (Abies spp.) in both eastern and western forests. In some localities, firs are slowly being eliminated from the ecosystem and adelgid populations continue to spread to previously uninfested areas.*

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The Maine Forest Service reports, *The balsam woolly adelgid (BWA), (Adelges piceae) (Ratz.) has been very abundant in the last several years in Maine and feeding activity by this pest has resulted in serious injury to or death of large volumes of balsam fir. BWA is an introduced pest of true firs that has spread throughout the southern half of the State. Entire stands of mature balsam as well as understory fir have been killed in many areas of the state and salvage operations are planned. While the heaviest damage has occurred within 30 miles of the coast, damage may also be seen as far north as southern Aroostook, northern Penobscot and southern Piscataquis counties. While balsam woolly adelgid is frequently limited by cold winter temperatures, the mild winters of the 1990's and early 2000's allowed this pest to attain damaging levels.*

The BPC currently has three invasive insects as part of this policy:

Asian long-horned beetle (*Anoplophora labripennis*)

Emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*)

Hemlock woolly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*)

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