



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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Hemlock Workshop Planned for Landowners *Pineville workshop will focus on protecting native hemlock trees*

FRANKFORT, KY (Oct. 10, 2012) – Landowners with hemlocks on their property are invited to a workshop to discuss treatment options to control hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), a small, aphid-like insect that is threatening the health of eastern hemlock trees. Since 2006, infestations of HWA on Kentucky's native hemlocks have been found in 20 eastern counties.

HWA, which feeds on the hemlock's sap and reproduces exponentially, has the potential to spread rapidly. In late summer and early fall, the insect begins producing an ovisac—resembling a minute cotton ball—that protects its eggs from natural enemies and prevents them from drying out. This white wool-like appearance is a sure sign of infestation, and an infestation will kill the tree if it is not treated in a timely manner. Many experts believe that the adverse effects from HWA could be as severe as the chestnut blight, and that we may lose our hemlocks just as we lost the American chestnut tree.

The no-cost workshop will be held at 4 p.m. on Oct. 16 at the Mason Pumpkin Farm located at 3186 West Highway 190, Pineville, Ky. Representatives from the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service and the Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) will discuss available treatment options and ways landowners can salvage heavily infested trees.

For more information, please contact Alice Mandt at 502-564-4496 or Stacy White at 606-337-2376. Citizens are also asked to notify forestry officials of infestations by contacting KDF's main office at 502-564-4496.

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