

Don't Let This Tiny Insect Steal the Green from Our Forests and the Holidays!

The balsam woolly adelgid (BWA for short) is wreaking havoc on balsam fir and Fraser fir forests in eastern North America. It has also made its way to the Pacific Northwest. Native to Europe, it arrived on nursery trees shipped to southeastern Canada in the late 1800s. BWA are most abundant in the fall, but the damage they cause can be found year-round.



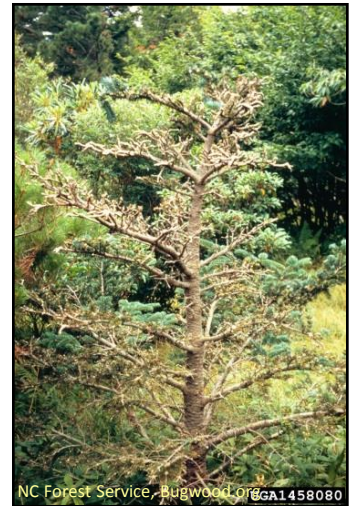
D. McComb, USFS, Bugwood.org UGA1678062

The BWA feeds on the tree's starch reserves, injecting saliva and causing the twigs to become swollen and stunted ("gouting").



R. L. Anderson, USFS, Bugwood.org UGA1748037

Adult BWA excrete a whitish waxy substance, making them look like tiny balls of cotton.



NC Forest Service, Bugwood.org UGA1458080

"Top curl" of infested fir trees is common, as they die from the top down. Note swollen twigs and branches.



W. M. Ciechanowski, Forest Health Mgmt. Intl, Bugwood.org

The BWA attacks the trunks of fir trees too. Densities often reach 100-200 per square inch. The foliage turns yellow, then deep red or brown. Balsam fir trees often die within a few years.



USFS, Bugwood.org UGA07997

This immature BWA "crawler" is the size of a pepper dot.



G. J. Lenhard, Louisiana State University, Bugwood.org UGA0014100

The BWA has killed whole Fraser fir forests in the Appalachians. Fir seedlings and saplings produce a chemical that gives them some resistance to the BWA, but as they mature they lose their resistance.

OVER for more!

The balsam woolly adelgid has not yet been found in the ceded territories. Let's keep it that way!

Balsam Woolly Adelgid
Adelges piceae (Ratzeburg)



Don't let this happen here!



What would Great Lakes forests be like without healthy balsam fir? Think of forests without ruffed grouse or lakes without perch!



You can help! Report suspected BWA or other forest pest infestations to tribal leaders or to tribal, state or federal natural resource agencies. Or contact:

Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission
PO Box 9, 72682 Maple Street
Odanah, WI 54861

715-682-6619
www.glifwc.org

