

## Town of Cape Elizabeth - Public Works Department – Community Forestry

### Fall / Winter 2024

Trees along our roadways, public lands and town forests are important environmental assets for Cape Elizabeth. Our goal is to keep our trees and forest healthy by sharing information.



#### Tree Alerts – Active tree concerns for the Town of Cape Elizabeth

**STORM DAMAGED TREES** – Reminder: Severe weather events caused considerable tree damage last Winter & Spring. Always good to do a follow up inspection this Fall once the foliage is off the trees.

**Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)** is now the top tree threat in the Town of Cape Elizabeth. It has been actively found throughout the town typically causing mortality in three years once infected. Inspect Ash trees for signs of EAB, see web links below. It's not too late to consider systemic tree injection preventative treatment on healthy high value Ash trees for next Spring. This pest can be treated by commercial arborists with an estimated effect of three years. Review these helpful EAB web links from the Maine Forest Service:

[Emerald Ash Borer \(EAB\) Updates : Forest Health & Monitoring : Maine Forest Service : Maine Agriculture, Conservation, Forestry \(DACF\)](#)

[ash-treatment-guide.pdf](#)

**Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA)** – Our native Eastern Hemlock is under serious threat both in residential neighborhood landscape setting and our town woodlands. Recommendations include inspecting Hemlock trees for white cottony adelgids under the needles, this pest can be treated by commercial arboriculture firms and biocontrol options are available for Hemlock woodlands with advanced notice.

Bio-control elements have been released at Winnicks Woods in 2023.

[Hemlock Woolly Adelgid In Maine : Forest Health & Monitoring: Maine Forest Service: Maine DACF](#)

**Beech Leaf Disease (BLD)** - Beech Leaf Disease has been found in mid-coast Maine and greater Portland. At this time, it is on the watch here in Cape Elizabeth. It affects both native American Beech and non-native European Beech trees. 'Be on the lookout'. See info link and report sightings:

[Beech Leaf Disease : Forest Health & Monitoring: Bureau of Forestry: Maine DACF](#)

**Winter Moth** - The Town of Cape Elizabeth and its residents have waged a multi-year battle against Winter Moth. Last year we received only sporadic reports of Winter Moth. Tree banding, treatments and bio-controls hopefully reduced this pest. 'Be on the lookout for night time moth flight in late November around porch lights.' (turn them off) Many mature Oak trees were damaged in previous WM cycles over the past decade, commercial tree harvests helped but many dead Oak trees remain on private woodlands / open spaces. For more information see web Maine Forest Service web link:

[Winter Moth: Forest Health & Monitoring: Maine Forest Service: Maine DACF](#)

# Maine Forest Service – Forest Health & Monitoring Information

## Winter Moth

**What?**  
A hardwood defoliator from Europe

**When (Detection/Likely Arrival)?**  
2011/late 2000s

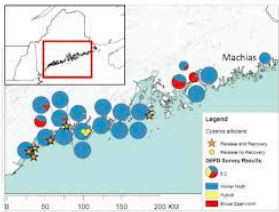
**Where?**  
Coastal Maine

**How to respond?**  
Natural enemy friendly landscapes  
Pesticide treatment of high-value ornamental/street trees  
Introduce biological control  
Bare root plant sales  
Share information



## Winter Moth

Damage reported in coastal locations from Kittery to MDI



**Total C. Albicans Released per Year**

Year	Total C. Albicans Released
2011	1000
2012	1500
2013	2000
2014	2500
2015	3000
2016	3500
2017	4000
2018	4500
2019	5000
2020	5500
2021	6000
2022	6500
2023	7000
2024	7500

Map Source: Jeremy Anderson, UMass Amherst

## Hemlock Woolly Adelgid


**What?**  
A sucking pest of hemlock

**When (Detection/Likely Arrival)?**  
NA: 1950s/mid-40s); ME: 2003/late 90's

**Where?**  
ME: Coastal Counties except Washington; Kennebec Co.

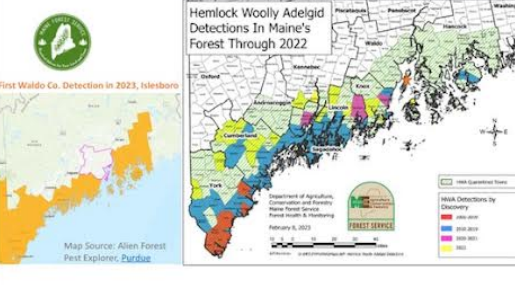
**How to respond?**  
Manage hemlock (forest)  
Monitor for detection  
Consider alternative landscaping  
Introduce biological control  
Follow low risk practices

- Aug-Feb least risk of spreading pest during management activities
- Don't move rooted hemlock to **uninfested** areas



## Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Detections In Maine's Forest Through 2022

First Waldo Co. Detection in 2023, Islesboro



Map Source: Allen Forest Pest Explorer, Purdue

## Emerald Ash Borer

**What?**  
A small, metallic green beetle from Asia, attacks ash trees leading to decline and death

**When (Detection/Likely Arrival)?**  
NA: 2002 (mid-90s); ME: 2018 (mid 20-teens)

**Where?**  
ME: York, Oxford, Cumberland, Androscoggin, Kennebec, Penobscot, Aroostook Counties.

**How to respond?**  
Monitor ash  
Manage ash  
Collect seeds  
Follow Best Management Practices  
Introduce biological control




## Quarantine

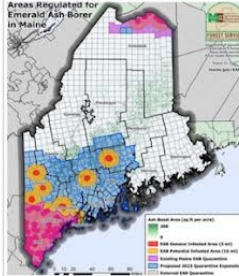
The **emerald ash borer**: firewood of all hardwood species; trees and parts of trees in the genus *Fraxinus* (including logs, stumps, roots, branches) CAN BE MOVED ONLY

**Within quarantined areas** – movement of a regulated article solely within the quarantined area of the state is allowed without restriction.

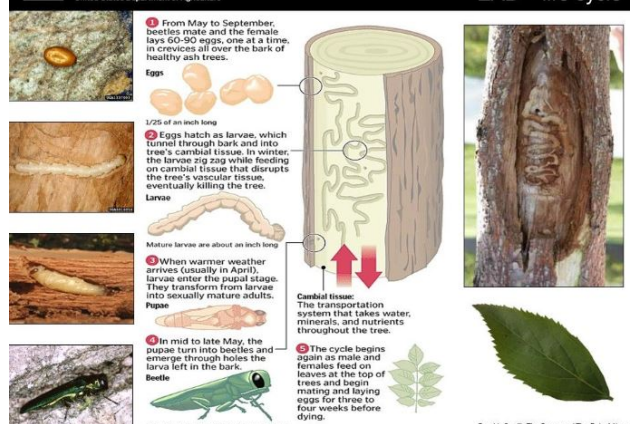
**Out of a quarantined area** with a certificate, or permit, or compliance agreement (through DACF)

**Out of a quarantined area** without a certificate – only by a DACF official for experimental or scientific purposes.

**Don't Mistake Quarantine for Best Practice!**



## EAB – life cycle



- From May to September, beetles mate and the female lays 60-90 eggs, one at a time, in crevices all over the bark of healthy ash trees.
- Eggs hatch as larvae, which tunnel through bark and into tree's cambial tissue. In winter, the larvae zig zag while feeding on cambial tissue that disrupts the tree's vascular tissue, eventually killing the tree.
- When warmer weather arrives (usually in April), larvae enter the pupal stage. They transform from larvae into sexually mature adults.
- In mid to late May, the pupae turn into beetles and emerge through holes the larvae left in the bark.
- The cycle begins again as male and females feed on leaves at the top of trees and begin mating and laying eggs for three to four weeks before dying.

**Cambial tissue:** The transportation system that takes water, minerals, and nutrients throughout the tree.

Adult beetles are 1/3 to 1/2 inches long.

Graphic Credit: Tim Summers / The Detroit News

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