

This is from Barbara Burns and summarizes some of the most current forest health issues .

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Below is some information from a recent meeting of Forest Health specialists from New England and New York. The Vermont forest health staff is putting together fact sheets on the local status of some of the most threatening exotic pests, which will be available shortly in hardcopy and on the internet.

Asian Longhorned Beetle in Worcester

- The beetle has most often found in maples. Boxelders seem to be favored.
- Of the people surveying the trees, the best have been arborists because they know urban tree ID.
- DNA of these beetles has not been tested yet. Based on DNA tests the beetles in NJ, NY, & Il are all from separate introductions.
- At this point, there is still nothing hopeful for biocontrol.
- There are encouraging results for developing a lure for detection traps, using *Acer mono* chemicals as attractants.
- The beetle has been found in wooded areas.
- The infestation has been active for at least 6-7 years.
- According to the quarantine, woody debris may not move out of the area at all, unless chipped to less than 1”.

Firewood Quarantine

- According to New York’s temporary firewood quarantine, no firewood may enter NY, and no firewood may be moved more than 50 miles.
- The definition of firewood is based on intended use.

Miscellaneous Pests

- Red pine scale has decimated red pine in CT, MA, and RI
- Diplodia is killing red pine in forests in Maine
- Rhizosphaera needlecast has sometimes severe enough to kill spruce trees in Maine. There is noticeable defoliation of native white spruce
- Periodical cicada was heavy this year on the Cape
- 15,000 acres in Massachusetts were defoliated by winter moth, an exotic relative of bruce spanworm. Moth flight was heavy this fall. A fly parasite has been introduced.
- A lot of hemlocks look crummy from hemlock woolly adelgid in Massachusetts, but there’s very little mortality. There’s more mortality in Rhode Island and Connecticut.
- Elongate hemlock scale has been detected in New Hampshire.
- Seven counties in the Finger Lakes region of New York and northern Albany County are newly infested with hemlock woolly adelgid.
- Sirex woodwasp is more commonly found in younger trees than older trees

Oak Wilt

- So far the detection in New York is limited to two properties in a recent development abutting an oak/maple/birch forest. It has been there at least four years.
- The whole subdivision has been quarantined, and the intent is to eradicate the disease.
- The smell is of oak wilt is distinctive. It can be spread by beetles for 2 years after the tree dies.