

Please help!

Alabama's hemlocks are in danger of extinction if we do not prevent the spread of the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA). The HWA is an invasive insect with no local natural predator. It has recently been reported in Alabama. Early detection of the insect is key. That's where you come in!

Why should I care?

Hemlocks are a keystone species, providing habitat and food for about 120 other species. They contribute to good water quality, air quality and support a healthy ecosystem. Our forest would look very different without hemlocks, because the cool, shady oases that these groves provide would quickly be replaced by invasive plants. Hemlock trees can live up to 900 years!

What can I do?

Watch for hemlock trees along the trail. If you see something suspicious, snap a picture and send it to savethehemlocks@wildal.org. If possible, provide the exact location. If not, a general description will do. You can also call Wild Alabama at 256-974-6166.

What do I look for?

Hemlock trees have tiny cones, and they keep their flat needles year round. They are usually a darker green than pine trees. Their needles are not in bunches like a pine, but come straight out from a branch. The overall shape is usually a cone or oval. An infested hemlock will have a white film on the underside of the branches.



Healthy hemlock branches and trees



Hemlock infested with HWA

If you would like to be more involved in saving Alabama's hemlocks, or simply want to stay informed about this topic, go to: <https://forms.gle/EuNpZbYrsn4dVw5C9> or snap a picture of the QR code below. You can also email savethehemlocks@wildal.org or call 256-974-6166.



SCAN ME

