

Dear Realtors, Property Managers, and Property Inspectors,

You probably are already aware that Georgia's hemlocks are being attacked and killed by an invasive insect, the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA). These trees are vital to the beauty and property values of our neighborhoods, the environmental health of our forests and waterways, and the economic vitality of our mountain communities that depend heavily on revenue from recreation and tourism.



Here are some important facts you might *not* know:



- The problem can be recognized by the little white woolly egg sacs on the underside of the branches. A badly infested tree looks like it's been flocked for a Christmas tree.



- HWA infestation is almost 100% fatal. **INFESTED HEMLOCKS THAT ARE NOT TREATED WILL DIE**, often in as few as 3 to 6 years.



- The presence of sick trees or the complete loss of these beautiful evergreens can seriously reduce property appeal and value and **MAKE A PROPERTY HARD TO SELL** and decrease the value of the whole neighborhood.



- But here's good news. In most cases even infested trees can be saved, and **IT'S A LOT CHEAPER TO TREAT THEM THAN TO CUT THEM DOWN**, especially if they need to be hauled away.

Many of your clients from areas outside north Georgia, seasonal residents, and even some full-time residents are unaware of this problem. So we encourage you to share this message as widely as possible through your web sites, newsletters, or the printable flyer on the next page that you can attach your business card to and urge your clients to treat their hemlocks as soon as possible. You will be doing a great service not only for your clients, but for everyone who loves these magnificent evergreens and everything that depends on them.

SAVE GEORGIA'S HEMLOCKS CAN PROVIDE A GREAT DEAL OF FREE HELP so please feel free to contact us at (706) 429-8010 if you have questions, need help, or would like a supply of informational rack cards to share with others.

Thank you for helping your clients save their hemlocks and preserve the beauty and value of their property. We would be glad to schedule a free Hemlock Help Clinic for members of your professional group and/or your clients as a way of supporting your efforts to provide the highest quality customer service.



Save Georgia's Hemlocks • 37 Woody Bend • Dahlonega, GA 30533
Hemlock Help LineSM 706-429-8010 • donna@SaveGeorgiasHemlocks.org
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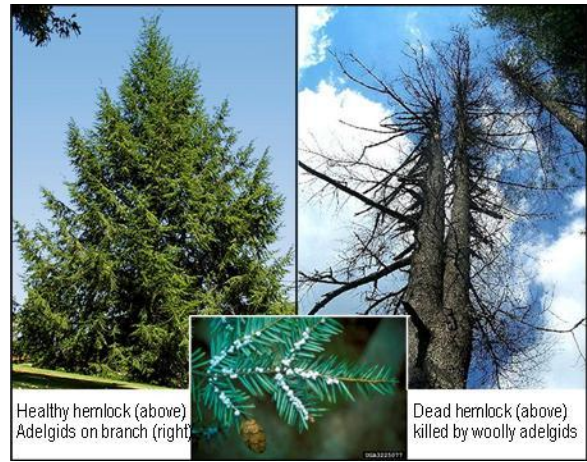
Dear Property Owners and Prospective Property Owners,

Throughout north Georgia our native hemlock trees are being killed by an invasive insect, the hemlock woolly adelgid. Almost all of these beautiful trees will die in the next few years unless action is taken soon.

Hemlocks are a vital keystone species providing food and habitat for about 120 species of vertebrates and more than 90 species of birds, shade for native plants, and cool temperatures for trout streams while protecting watersheds, filtering pollutants from the air, and producing oxygen for us to breathe. Healthy mature hemlocks can add 7-10% to private property values and provide enjoyment for those who live among them, as well as those who visit for tourism and recreation. The loss of these important trees would be an aesthetic, economic, and environmental tragedy on the scale of the American Chestnut.

The good news is that property owners can treat and save as many of their hemlocks as they choose. It's safe, easy enough for most people to do themselves, and surprisingly inexpensive, especially when compared to the cost of losing the trees. There are also several qualified local companies that can provide this service to property owners who prefer to contract with a professional.

Save Georgia's Hemlocks, a 100% volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, has implemented the free Hemlock Help Program to educate property owners and enable them to choose and implement an appropriate solution to save their hemlocks. For more information, visit www.savegeorgiashemlocks.org or call the Hemlock Help LineSM at (706) 429-8010.



Healthy hemlock (above)
Adelgids on branch (right)

Dead hemlock (above)
killed by woolly adelgids



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