



COMMUNICATION UPDATE

Hamilton

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	June 11, 2024
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Urban Forest Invasive Species Management (ES2404) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Cynthia Graham Director, Environmental Services Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Graham".

This Communication Update aims to inform Council of action related to pests and pathogens expected to impact Hamilton's urban forest.

At this time, the three major forest pests and pathogens of concern are hemlock woolly adelgid, spotted lanternfly, and oak wilt. In previous years, emerald ash borer and *Lymantria dispar* moth have been a significant threat; a combination of natural pest and pathogen lifecycles and the successful implementation of management programs has led to lower population levels of these two pests. Ongoing monitoring programs will continue to identify population trends and guide the management of these two pests.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

To date, there has only been one identified infestation of hemlock woolly adelgid in Hamilton. In 2024, City staff and the Royal Botanical Gardens will implement a treatment program at this location. The infested hemlock trees will be treated using a registered insecticide.

To facilitate early detection of other infestations, Forestry will work through 2024 to gather a complete inventory of eastern hemlock trees in high-priority City parks, cemeteries, and open spaces, and assess for the presence of hemlock woolly adelgid. Hemlock trees identified as having an infestation of hemlock woolly adelgid will be assessed and either treated with insecticide or removed if severely infested.

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OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

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This work will be funded through the Forestry Operating Budget and grant funding received through a successful application to the Invasive Species Action Fund.

Spotted Lanternfly

Spotted lanternfly has not been detected in Canada. To prevent the spread into Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency continues to monitor areas of the Niagara region, due to the threat to grape, tree fruit, wine, and ornamental nurseries.

Staff have begun to assess the City's tree inventory to identify locations of the host tree species Tree of Heaven, *Ailanthus altissima*, within the right-of-way, parks, and cemeteries which will assist with future monitoring if detected in Canada. This work will be funded through the Forestry Operating Budget.

Oak Wilt

Oak wilt was first detected in Canada in 2023 in Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, and Springwater. For 2024, Forestry staff will be assisting the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry with early oak wilt detection in Hamilton by setting up two traps for a four-week monitoring program. This work will be funded through the Forestry Operating Budget.

Future Detection

In April, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency will implement and oversee a general surveillance program using Lindgren funnel traps. Six traps have been installed within the wooded area of Dundurn Castle to attract wood-boring insects. Dundurn Castle is a good location to monitor because it has a variety of tree species and is adjacent to heavily trafficked areas including the Harbour and Highway 403. This information will be shared with Forestry staff and used to assist in future management plans.

For further information, please contact Robyn Pollard, Manager of Forestry and Horticulture at Robyn.Pollard@hamilton.ca

For more information about urban forest pests and pathogens visit:

- <https://www.hamilton.ca/home-neighbourhood/house-home/gardens-trees/invasive-species>
- <https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/>
- <https://inspection.canada.ca/en/plant-health/invasive-species>

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

N/A

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