

FRASER FIR IPM 2020 – PEST FACTS AT A GLANCE

BALSAM WOOLLY ADELGID

Adelges piceae

Where from: Europe

Host plants: All true firs – Fraser fir is one of the most susceptible

SYMPTOMS

- Crooked top



- Stiff and brittle trunk – dead branches

- Gouting



- Red reaction wood which is harder than normal wood

Important cultural practice:

- BWA is only found on true firs. Remove any large, untreated firs near fields.
- Don't interplant

Scouting: Examine trees with crooked tops for white wool on trunk and under branch/trunk union. Confirm with handlens that is insect and not lichen or resin. Rub finger across woolly masses to find purple stain from living insects. Push on trunk to determine if it is stiff.

LIFE CYCLE

How overwinters: Nymphs on bark and buds

generations/year: 2-4 depending on season and elevation. Once crawler settles at a feeding site, the insect will never move again.

- White wool on trunk. Stain on finger from living insects



- Adult female with eggs
- No males produced in US



- Black nymphs and reddish crawler



Control considerations:

Once BWA is found, you have until the next bud break to get control. There are no effective biological control agents.

- Cull heavily infested trees
- Butt-prune trees for better coverage
- Thorough coverage is required for control. Treat trees from opposite directions with a high pressure sprayer
- Some pesticides such as horticultural oil and insecticidal soap will not kill all the eggs. Only use these products in the winter when only nymphs are present.