

# Kentucky Woodland

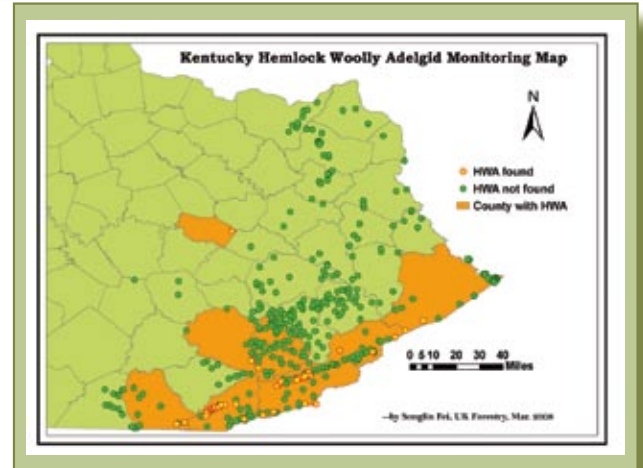
## Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Update

Since its initial discovery in Harlan County in 2006, the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA), *Adelges tsugae*, has now been found in ten Kentucky counties: Bell, Clay, Grayson, Harlan, Leslie, Letcher, Oldham, Pike, Powell and Whitley. HWA is most likely in several other counties but hasn't been found yet. It only attacks eastern hemlock trees.

Last year's low-level infestations have now become moderate to heavy infestations this year. Tree mortality has not been seen yet but is expected within a few years.

To date, some trees on state or agency-owned lands have been chemically treated with imidacloprid and two species of predator beetles have been released at selected locations. The two predator beetles are *Sasajiscymnus tsugae*, a tiny lady beetle, and *Laricobius nigrinus*, a derodontid beetle. Researchers are evaluating more predator beetles in hopes of future releases.

If you suspect HWA on your eastern hemlock trees, please call 1.800.866.0555, your local UK Extension Office or Kentucky Division of Forestry office to report it. You may also visit [www.forestry.ky.gov/programs/health](http://www.forestry.ky.gov/programs/health) to learn more.



## Kentucky Woodlot\$: Capture the Value Conference Available Online



The recently held Kentucky Woodlot\$: Capture the Value Conference represented the first time state agriculture leaders and woodland owners have met as a group to discuss common issues and emerging opportunities in the industry. The conference was held in February at The Center for Rural Development in Somerset. Some of the leading experts in the field of forestry were speakers at the conference. The conference, sponsored by 15 stakeholder organizations, explored the latest market trends on how to reach and “capture” the maximum value of Kentucky’s woodlands. The entire program was recorded and is available (including the PowerPoint presentations) by visiting [http://www.centertech.com/outreach/ag/ag\\_conference.php](http://www.centertech.com/outreach/ag/ag_conference.php). For more information call 606.677.6000.

## Master Tree Farmer Coming this September

The Master Tree Farmer Program is an intensive educational program designed to introduce woodland owners to many of the topics associated with forest management. This year’s program will focus on risks and their management on woodlands including: forest health, invasive species, dealing with natural disasters, taxes, timber trespass and theft, and how woodland owners can mitigate these risks. Master Tree Farmer courses are the only satellite broadcasts of their kind for woodland owners throughout the South. Forestry professionals from universities, private and public organizations participate as instructors and presenters. The 2008 Master Tree Farmer Program will be held September 9, 16, and 23 at numerous locations across Kentucky. For more information call 859.257.7597 or visit [www.ukforestry.org](http://www.ukforestry.org)

## Dates To Remember:

Don't forget to add these important dates to your calendar! Preregistration is strongly encouraged for all events.

Date:	Event:	Location:	Contact:
June 2 - 6	Kentucky Forest Leadership Program	Jabez, KY	859.257.2703
June 12 - September 23	Woodland Owners Short Course (see pg. 4)	various KY counties	859.257.7597
September 19 - 20	Kentucky Wood Expo	Madisonville, KY	502.695.3979
September 9, 16, 23	Master Tree Farmer	various KY counties	859.257.7597

For more information about these programs, visit [www.ukforestry.org](http://www.ukforestry.org)

# News To Use

## ***Woodland Owner Alert***

### ***Budget Cuts –***

#### ***Possibly the Biggest Threat to Kentucky's Woodland Owners***

One of the most important issues facing woodland owners in Kentucky is the reduction in funding for the Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF). Budget cuts are at the state and federal level and this double punch will have tangible effects on service to woodland owners and the overall health and productivity of our woodlands.

#### ***State Budget Cuts:***

The state budget cuts are significant and will require that KDF prioritize services to woodland owners. In recent months the following have been discussed:

- 1) Closure of both state tree nurseries.
- 2) Reduction in workforce from 216 to 201, including service foresters that assist woodland owners with forest management planning and technical assistance, and county ranger technicians that inspect logging operations and organize and direct local wildfire suppression crews.
- 3) Not replacing over 80 aged vehicles and over 30 pieces of forest fire fighting equipment.

The loss of nursery capacity could effectively cripple the state's ability to reforest surface mines, establish riparian buffer areas, and plant trees for timber production and wildlife habitat enhancement. The noticeable and cumulative effects of the state budget cuts will also be less technical assistance for woodland owners, less logging oversight and a decrease in the ability to effectively fight wildfires.

#### ***Federal Budget Cuts:***

The proposed federal budget cuts are from a reduction in the U.S. Forest Services' (USFS) State and Private Forestry Programs including an approximately 80 percent reduction in Stewardship, Urban and Community Forestry, and Forest Health, as well as a 26 percent reduction in state wildfire suppression assistance.

The University of Kentucky Department of Forestry Extension and KDF produce the Kentucky Woodlands Magazine that receives significant funding from federal stewardship and forest health funds and is at risk of elimination. Other education activities such as woodland owner field days, workshops, and demonstrations will be cut back or eliminated. Further, a reduction in training and support for service foresters that work directly with woodland owners will occur.

These federal reductions will also hamper KDF's ability to deal with invasion from the emerald ash borer, hemlock wooly adelgid and a host of other forest health threats. Cuts in wildland fire suppression assistance, reduced equipment for volunteer fire departments and support for local Firewise programs are also in store.

The National Association of State Foresters that represents all state forestry agencies is asking for support to ensure that the USFS maintains State and Private Forestry funding for fiscal year 2009 at \$45 million for Forest Stewardship; \$36 million for Urban and Community Forestry; State Fire Assistance including \$50 million for Cooperative Fire Protection and \$95 million for Wildland Fire Management; and Cooperative Forest Health Management including \$53 million for State and Private Forestry and \$13 million for Wildland Fire Management. Kentucky gets its share of these federal funds and maintenance of the funding levels suggested above will allow KDF to maintain appropriate service to the commonwealth and woodland owners.

This federal funding recommendation would allow USFS to keep its commitments to the states; fund much needed forestry conservation and protection practices that provide multiple environmental benefits to all citizens and help local economies.

Engaged woodland owners should be aware of these issues as they will undoubtedly affect assistant to woodland owners, communication and education on woodland issues, and forest health in Kentucky.



#### **Answers to**

#### **Test Your Knowledge on page 21.**

- A. River birch
- B. Passionflower vine
- C. Burt
- D. Forest tent caterpillar
- E. Lightning damage