

# GUIDE to WISCONSIN'S ELONGATE HEMLOCK SCALE REGULATIONS



**Elongate hemlock scale (EHS) (*Fiorinia externa*)** is an introduced, invasive insect from Asia that feeds on conifers, including balsam and Fraser fir and hemlock. EHS feeds by sucking fluid from needle undersides, which leads to needle yellowing and loss and predisposes trees to drought and other stressors. On July 1, 2023, Wisconsin instituted an exterior quarantine for EHS - **ATCP 21.23**, making it illegal to **import** conifer plants or plant parts, including cut Christmas trees, nursery stock, branches, wreaths, or décor, of the plant taxa *Abies spp.*, *Biota orientalis*, *Juniperus chinensis*, *Juniperus rigida*, *Cedrus spp.*, *Picea spp.*, *Pinus spp.*, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, *Tsuga canadensis*, *Tsuga spp.*, and *Taxus spp.*, from EHS infested areas into Wisconsin unless certain plant safeguarding measures are taken. EHS infested areas include the following states: CT, DE, GA, KY, ME, MD, MA, MI, NH, NJ, NY, NC, OH, PA, RI, SC, TN, VT, VA, WV and the District of Columbia.

**Please carefully read the information below if your Wisconsin business is impacted by the EHS exterior quarantine.**

## Nursery Stock

- Wisconsin nursery dealers and growers and Christmas tree producers who **import** regulated nursery stock or seedlings (*see list of regulated species above*) from any EHS infested area must contact DATCP to sign a compliance agreement annually.
  - Dealers and growers need to provide documentation verifying the imported stock is free of EHS.
  - And, dealers and growers must provide DATCP pre-notification\* of all applicable incoming nursery stock shipments.
- If no compliance agreement has been issued, each shipment of regulated plants from the infested area must be accompanied by a certificate verifying the nursery stock was inspected by a pest control official in the state of origin. The certificate must indicate one of the following: the stock originates from an area known to be free of EHS, the stock has been effectively treated to destroy EHS or the stock has been produced, stored and handled under conditions which preclude transmission of EHS.
- If purchasing stock through a plant broker, it is your responsibility to know the origin of the plant material.

## Cut Christmas Trees & Decorative Products: Boughs, Branches, Wreath Materials

- Wisconsin dealers and vendors who **import** regulated plant material as cut Christmas trees, boughs, or other decorative materials (*see list of regulated species above*) from any EHS infested area must contact DATCP to sign a compliance agreement annually.
  - Dealers and vendors need to provide documentation verifying the imported trees and plant materials are free of EHS.
  - And, dealers and vendors must provide DATCP pre-notification\* of incoming shipments of cut trees and plant material.
- If no compliance agreement has been issued, each shipment of regulated material from the infested area must be accompanied by a certificate verifying the materials were inspected by a pest control official in the state of origin. The certificate must indicate one of the following: the materials originate from an area known to be free of EHS, the materials have been effectively treated to destroy EHS or the materials have been produced, stored and handled under conditions which preclude transmission of EHS.
- If purchasing trees, boughs or other plant material through a broker, or from an auction, it is your responsibility to know the origin of the plant materials.

**\*Pre-notifications can be emailed to [MeganT.Sanders@WI.gov](mailto:MeganT.Sanders@WI.gov). Include the following information:**

- The name and address of the importer, aka the Wisconsin business
- The type and volume of material being imported into Wisconsin
- The source locations from which the material originates and was grown
- The plant material delivery location including name (if applicable) and address
- The method of import

*Wisconsin businesses must make certain anyone handling regulated articles as part of business operations has been trained to identify EHS. Visit [PlantPests.WI.gov](http://PlantPests.WI.gov) for more information about this pest and [National Plant Board - Home](#) to review the rule language.*

**These rules cover importation of regulated articles into Wisconsin from EHS-infested areas. Compliance agreements are held between Wisconsin businesses and DATCP. Quarantine boundaries are always subject to change. If you have questions regarding the movement of regulated articles including: hemlock or fir nursery stock, cut fir trees or fir boughs, please contact:**

**Meg Sanders: (715) 891-8158, [MeganT.Sanders@WI.gov](mailto:MeganT.Sanders@WI.gov)  
Forest Pest Regulatory Coordinator  
Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection – Plant Industry Bureau**