



COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	November 4, 2025
SUBJECT:	Invasive Spread of Urban Forest Pest: Expansion of Regulated Area for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (City Wide) (ES2510)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Cynthia Graham Director, Environmental Services Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

The purpose of this update is to provide information regarding recent changes made by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to the regulated area for hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) aimed at limiting the spread and impact of this invasive insect.

HWA was first confirmed in Hamilton in the spring of 2023 at the Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG). It was then found on adjacent properties including a city-owned property in Westdale, as described by Communication Update, Invasive Spread of Urban Forest Pests: Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Identified on City Property (City Wide) (ES23005). As a result of these detections, a Notice of Prohibition of Movement was in place for properties with known infestations.

As of August 21, 2025, The CFIA has expanded the regulated area for HWA to include the City of Hamilton, Regional Municipality of Niagara, Haldimand County, and the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand as shown in Appendix A. This comes in response to continued detections of HWA outside of the previous regulated area boundary.

For more information on the regulated area expansion visit:

- <https://www.canada.ca/en/food-inspection-agency/news/2025/08/more-areas-in-ontario-now-regulated-for-the-hemlock-woolly-adelgid-insect.html>

The updated regulated area means that prohibitions of movement now apply across the entire area instead of individual properties. In short, the legislation states: No person,

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except a CFIA inspector, shall move or cause the movement of HWA, Hemlock (Tsuga spp.) plants, or Hemlock plant parts containing bark or foliage outside of the regulated area. This includes movement of nursery trees, wreaths, forest products with bark attached, wood mulch with bark, and dried branches. It should be noted, there are no restrictions of movement within the boundaries of the regulated area.

This impacts industry and landowners in Hamilton that work with, sell, or manage Hemlock trees or material. Those affected need to ensure Hemlock material (ex. wood chips, branches, nursery stock) are not moved outside of the regulated area. Material can be moved from site to site, but not beyond the boundary outlined in Appendix A.

Care should be taken by residents to limit the spread of HWA, for more information on the pest visit:

- <https://www.hamilton.ca/home-neighbourhood/home-property/trees-gardens/tree-health#hemlock-woolly-adelgid>

City of Hamilton Assets

The City of Hamilton's Forest Health team has been monitoring the spread of HWA since its discovery in 2023. Over the past two years, the City has surveyed all known hemlock trees on city properties for signs of HWA. This includes planted trees within city parks and streets, and those in natural areas. To date, no detections have been made outside of the original infestation area in Westdale. All hemlock trees on city property with confirmed HWA have been treated with injection pesticides in an attempt to mitigate further decline.

HWA Hamilton Chapter

Since 2024, the City of Hamilton, RBG, McMaster University, Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA), and Hamilton Naturalists' Club (HNC) have made a commitment to collectively fight the spread of HWA. Together the group has completed surveying of approximately 4,720 trees across hundreds of hectares of forest within Hamilton. This has led to dozens of new detections within the city boundaries. Refer to Appendix B.

At this time, Hamilton's detection areas are in Wards 1, 12, and 13. However, it is likely that sites outside these areas host undetected populations of HWA. HWA has also been confirmed outside of Hamilton's boundaries to the east (Grimsby) and south (Norfolk County).

Next Steps

The City will continue to treat trees on city property that have confirmed HWA. The Forestry team will work closely with other landowners and forest managers of abutting properties within Hamilton to develop a collaborative treatment and communication strategy. This includes staff in Golf Courses, Parks, Cemeteries, as well as Hamilton, Halton, and Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authorities, the Royal Botanical Gardens, the Hamilton Naturalists Club, and the Bruce Trail Conservancy. Treatment will focus on prioritizing trees that offer the greatest ecosystem services such as shoreline protection, trail safety, and carbon sequestration. To help fund treatment and monitoring efforts, the City and other HWA Hamilton Chapter members have benefited from grant funding through the Invasive Species Action Fund.

For further information please contact Robyn Pollard, Manager of Forestry and Horticulture by phone at (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3919, or by email at Robyn.Pollard@hamilton.ca.

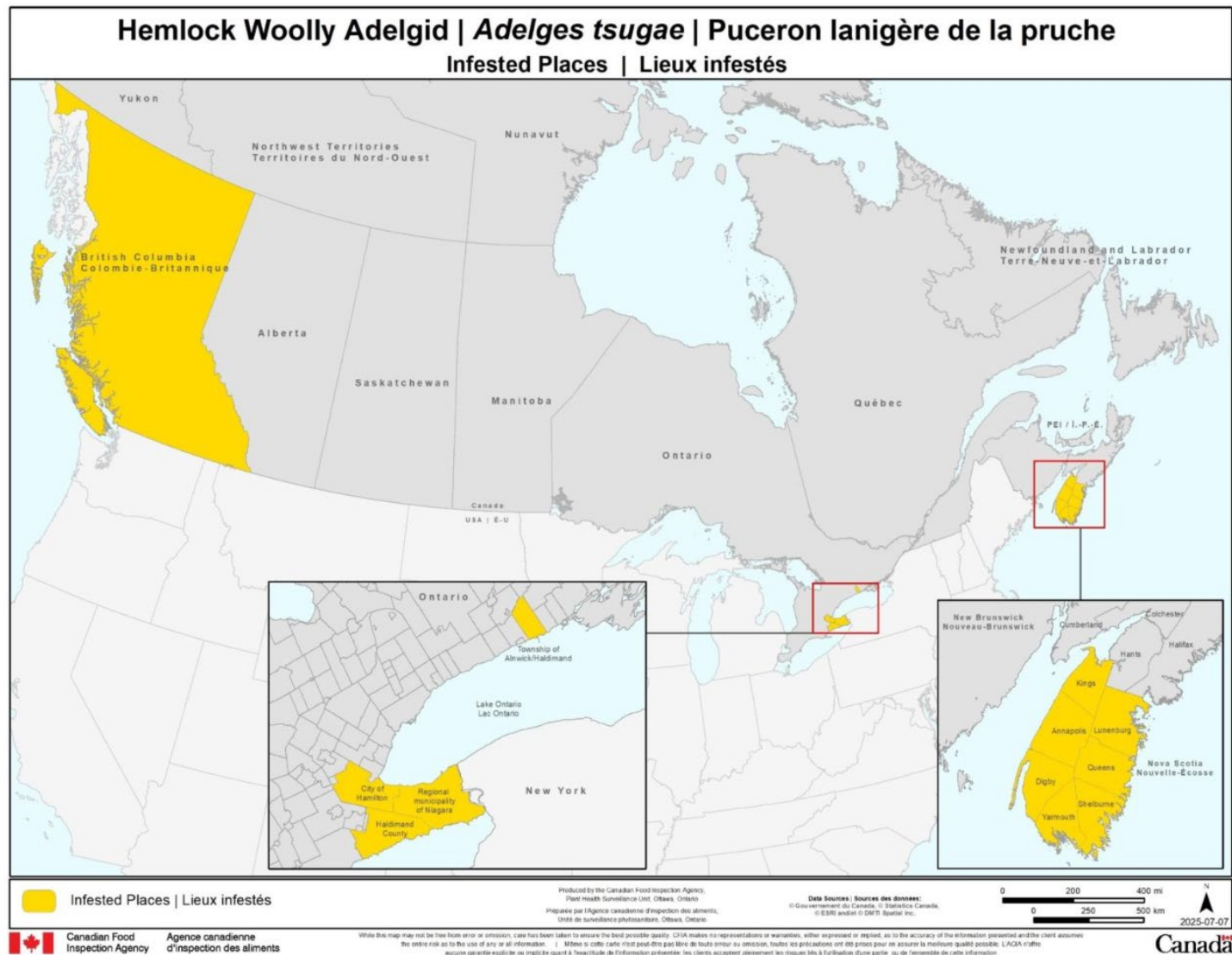
APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix A – CFIA Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Infested Places [Regulated Areas], 2025

Appendix B – City of Hamilton Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Detection Areas

SUBJECT: Invasive Spread of Urban Forest Pest: Expansion of Regulated Area for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (City Wide) (ES2510) (City Wide) - Page 4 of 5

Appendix A – CFIA Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Infested Places [Regulated Areas], 2025



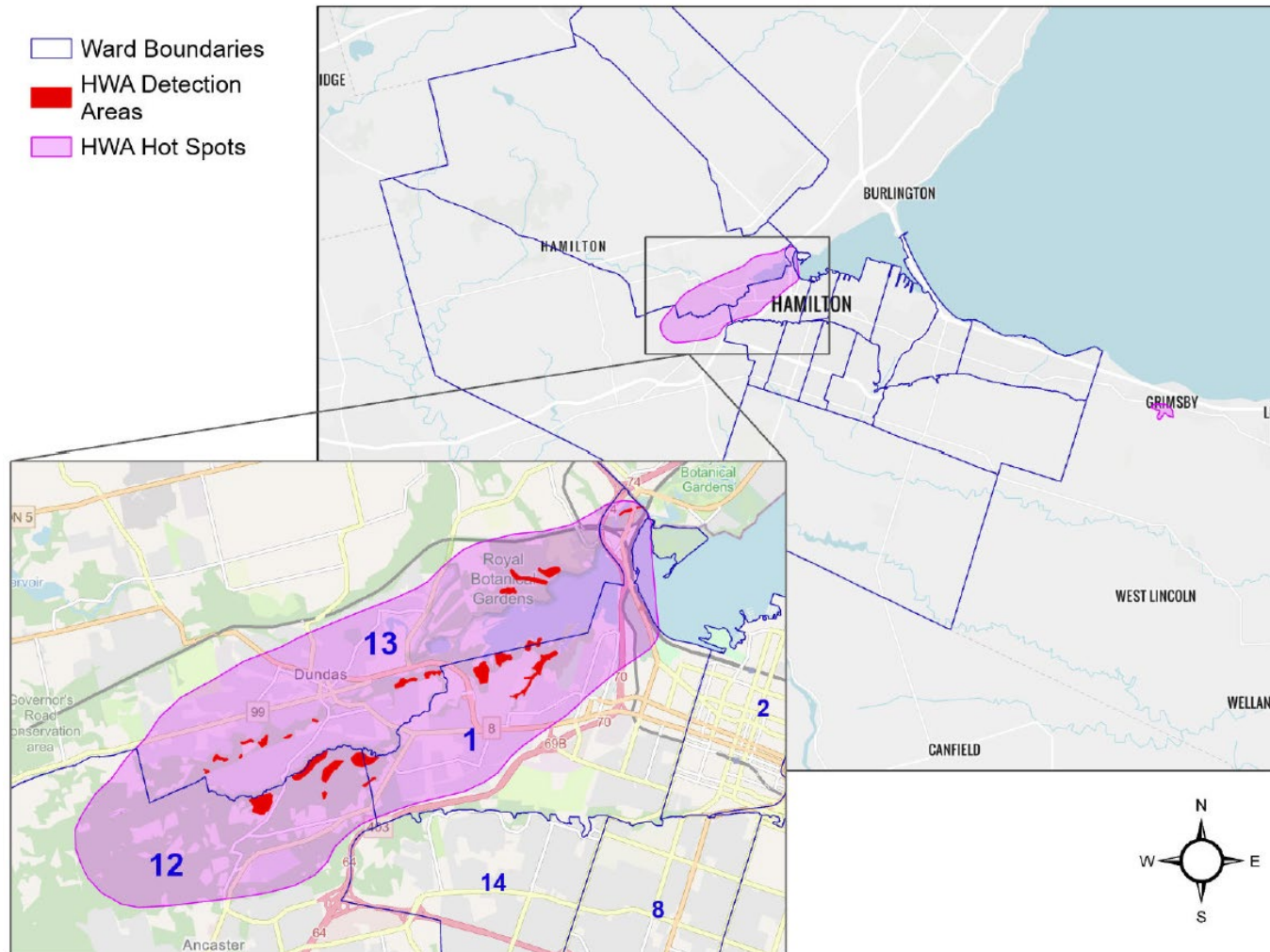
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Appendix B – City of Hamilton Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Detection Areas

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) Detection Areas in City of Hamilton



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