

## Station 8: Hemlock

Hemlocks are a dominant species of tree in this neck of the woods. The hemlock is an evergreen that reaches 50-80 feet in height, has dark green needles of 1/2 inch (or less) long, and has rough red-brown bark.

The hemlock is threatened by a parasitic insect called the woolly adelgid (pictured), which was introduced from Asia. The adelgid sucks the sap from young twigs, stunting new growth. With no new growth, the tree can die within a few years.

Loss of the hemlock would have devastating consequences on the area's ecology. The shade provided by hemlock groves provides a sheltered, cool environment, one which deer, for example, depend on for access to the ground in winter.

