

Our Mission:

Prince William County's Mosquito and Forest Pest Management Branch (MFPM) monitors infestations and outbreaks of mosquitoes and forest pests. A forest pest is an insect or disease that can harm trees and devastate entire forests. They are often invasive, non-native organisms that thrive due to the lack of predators or natural defenses in the areas where they are introduced. On average, a new, potentially devastating pest is imported into the U.S. every 2 to 2.5 years.

Our office may intervene when populations become too high and forest health is threatened. This may include biological or chemical controls to limit tree damage. Upon request, we will conduct free inspections if you feel your property is threatened by a forest pest.

What can you do?

- Learn the trees on your property.
- Familiarize yourself with the pests in this brochure.
- Learn the signs and symptoms of a sick tree.
- Visit www.treesaregood.org for info on tree care.
- DO NOT MOVE FIREWOOD! It may have pests.
- Call MFPM for a free inspection if you suspect your trees are being damaged.

Emerald Ash borer

(EAB; *Agrilus planipennis*)



This invasive beetle has been spreading across the U.S. and was first found in PWC in 2010. They have killed most mature ash trees in PWC. While adult beetles can fly impressive distances, they can also be transported through firewood, nursery stock, or other untreated wood.

Damage: Young beetle larvae feed inside the bark of the tree, damaging the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients between the roots and the canopy of the tree. Without proper treatment, death will eventually occur.

Tree Hosts: Ash (*Fraxinus*) species, some effects on White Fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*).

Photo Credits:

Spongy moth: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, Univ. of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Adult ALB: Melody Keena, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid: Steven Katovich, Bugwood.org

Thousand cankers: Ned Tisserat Colorado State University, insectimages.org

Fall cankerworm female: William M. Ciesla, Forest Health Management International, Bugwood.org

All others: Prince William County Mosquito & Forest Pest Management staff



Prince William County
Department of Public Works
Construction & Operations Division
Mosquito & Forest Pest
Management Branch

14879 Dumfries Rd
Manassas, VA 22012

703-792-6279

mfpm@pwcgov.org

www.pwcva.gov/mfpm



A Prince William County, VA
publication (updated April 2025)

A guide to Forest Pests of Prince William County



Prince William County, Virginia
Mosquito & Forest Pest Management
703.792.6279

www.pwcva.gov/mfpm



Spotted Lanternfly

(SLF; *Lycorma delicatula*)

First discovered in PWC in 2021, this invasive planthopper has been spreading along the Eastern U.S. since 2014. SLF can lay their eggs on almost any surface, making them easy to accidentally transport. They are poor flyers, but can climb tall objects and catch the wind to glide significant distances. Many quarantines and outreach campaigns have been enacted to slow its spread, including here in PWC where people are required to check objects for any SLF life stage before they are moved outside of the county.

Damage: SLF feeds on the sugars and vital nutrients under the bark of plants. This leads to branch decline and sooty mold covering the forest understory. Long-term damage can lead to the mortality of these plants.

Tree Hosts: SLF nymphs prefer tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) and grape vines (*Vitis*) but will feed on many different types of plants. Adults favor maples (*Acer*) and black walnut (*Juglans nigra*).



Fall Cankerworm

(FCW; *Alsophila pometaria*)

This North American moth has caused significant damage during its periodic years of high population. The wingless females emerge in winter to lay their eggs, which hatch into inchworm-like caterpillars in the spring. These young caterpillars feed on new spring leaves. The caterpillars mature in late June/early July, then descend on threads of silk to the ground to build their cocoons. The pupae remain in the soil until fall, when the cycle begins again.

Damage: Fall cankerworm caterpillars feed on leaves and can completely defoliate sections of a forest when their population reaches high levels. This leads to badly stressed trees and eventual mortality.

Tree Hosts: Many species, including oaks (*Quercus*), maples (*Acer*), beech (*Fagus*), hickory (*Carya*), elm (*Ulmus*), and linden (*Tilia*).



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

(HWA; *Adelges tsugae*)

This insect mainly spreads to new locations by bird activity and has a complex life cycle. It was introduced on ornamental hemlocks to Virginia in the 1950's.

Damage: This insect causes loss of nutrients to the rest of the tree by feeding at the base of hemlock needles. This causes the needles to turn brown and fall off. Left untreated, hemlock woolly adelgid can kill adult hemlock trees, especially when other stressors are present.

Tree Hosts: Eastern (*Tsuga canadensis*) and Carolina Hemlock (*Ts. caroliniana*).



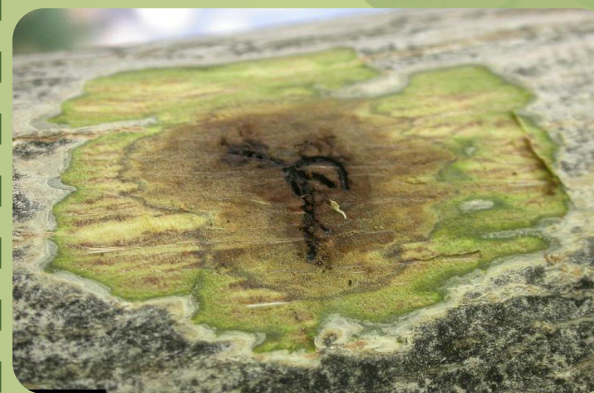
Asian Longhorned Beetle

(ALB; *Anoplophora glabripennis*)

This large, black beetle with long antennae is an invasive species from East Asia. The majority of its life cycle occurs in trees, which makes it hard to detect. ALB are often spread accidentally in wood products. It has been found in New York, South Carolina, and four other states, but has yet to be found in Virginia. Early detection can prevent ALB from establishing in the county.

Damage: ALB larvae feed on the inner wood of trees. This method of feeding creates extensive galleries and tunnels within the tree, resulting in a loss of structural strength and eventually killing the tree over time.

Tree Hosts: Maples (*Acer*), especially red maple (*A. rubrum*), willows (*Salix*), elms (*Ulmus*) and a few others.



Spongy Moth

(SpoMo; *Lymantria dispar*)

This invasive species was introduced to the U.S. in 1869 from Europe. Since the 1980's, spongy moths have spread to PWC and are now found throughout VA. Fortunately, their population levels have remained low over the past few years in PWC.

Damage: Caterpillars feed voraciously on leaves, leaving chewed holes between leaf veins. During high population years, this can lead to full defoliation. Consecutive years of intense feeding or combination with other stressors can lead to tree mortality.

Tree Hosts: Many species including oaks (*Quercus*), aspen (*Populus*), willows (*Salix*), maples (*Acer*), hickories (*Carya*).



Thousand Cankers Disease

(TCD; *Geosmithia morbida*)

Confirmed in the East Coast in 2010, this complex disease results from the walnut twig beetle (*Pityophthorus juglandis*) introducing a fungus (*Geosmithia morbida*) between trees.

Damage: The walnut twig beetle chews small tunnels, or galleries, through the wood causing minimal damage. However, the fungus it carries can cause severe harm, leading to tree decline and potentially death.

Tree Hosts: Walnut trees (*Juglans*).