



The **New York State Hemlock Initiative**'s mission is to coordinate state-wide efforts of land owners, state and federal agencies, government officials, and concerned citizens to conserve New York State's hemlock trees, with our focus on the invasive forest pest the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA).

[nyshemlockinitiative.info](http://nyshemlockinitiative.info)



## Volunteer Opportunity: **Hedge Insectary Monitors**

### **Our Biocontrol Program:**

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A major part of the NYS Hemlock Initiative is our **Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Biocontrol Research Lab**, the focus of which is to study the rearing, establishment, and spread of HWA predators to provide long-term management of HWA throughout New York. Biocontrol insects are released at HWA-infested sites with the aim of reducing the local populations of HWA and slowing its spread. Hemlock hedges provide a valuable resource for us as field insectaries where we can raise biocontrol insects remotely, away from our lab based at Cornell University. These field insectaries will allow us more space in our lab to raise biocontrol colonies and provide local resources of HWA predators to distribute throughout the further reaches of the state.

### **Hemlock Hedge Requirements:**

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Not only are hedges excellent sources of hemlock habitat for insects, they are also easy to monitor, reach, and harvest for biocontrol agents when it comes time to release the insects at infested forest sites. An ideal hemlock hedge will have the following qualities:

- Has an HWA infestation, but is still healthy
- Has low levels of disturbance from mowing or gardening beneath it
- Is dense throughout and has branches that are low to the ground

### **Hedge Monitoring Expectations:**

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If we find your hedge suitable and select it for use as an insectary, we would time a release of biocontrol insects on the hedge. In order to determine successful establishment of a biocontrol colony, we will ask you to monitor your hedges following the release for the presences of biocontrol insects and report your findings to us.



### **Getting Involved:**

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If you have a hemlock hedge that you think could be a potential biocontrol insectary and would like to have us assess its suitability, please let us know:

**Email:** [nyshemlockinitiative@cornell.edu](mailto:nyshemlockinitiative@cornell.edu)

**Address:** NYS Hemlock Initiative, 111 Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca NY 14850

For more information on the NYS Hemlock Initiative, our volunteer programs, or our biocontrol program, visit our website at [www.nyshemlockinitiative.info](http://www.nyshemlockinitiative.info).