

# Major Invasive Pest Threats to New England



**Asian longhorned beetle** threatens many types of hardwood trees, including maple, oak, elm, birch, and poplar. As of 2005, it has killed trees in New York City and Chicago, but is not yet found in New England. Adult beetles are 3/4 to 1 1/4 inch long.



**Emerald ash borer** has killed millions of ash trees in MI, OH, and IN by larval tunneling under the bark. Thinning and yellowing of foliage is an early symptom. Not found in New England as of 2005.



**Hemlock woolly adelgids** are tiny aphid-like insects that weaken or kill Carolina and Eastern hemlock. Early detection is key. They are usually noticed by the small white cottony egg masses that begin appearing at bases of needles in March. Not found in VT as of 2005.



**Eurasian milfoil** forms dense mats in lakes and other slow moving waters. The mats impede boating, swimming and fishing; displace native aquatic plants; and reduce water quality. Eradication is difficult. Prevention relies on inspecting boats and trailers for fragments. Not found in ME as of 2005.



**Japanese barberry** is a dense woody spiny shrub that is invading New England natural areas, crowding out native plants. It normally grows three feet high, producing small yellow flowers in May, and red berries that last into the winter.



**Purple loosestrife** occurs in all the New England states along streams, rivers, and lakes. It crowds out cattails and other native wetland plants. Purple flower spikes bloom from July through September-October. Eradication is difficult. Containment may be the only practical option for large patches.