

Tree Talk

Invasive Insects

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture recently found an infestation of an invasive insect on Christmas decorations bought from Menards and Home Depot located in the Twin Cities and Wisconsin areas. The Elongate Hemlock Scale, is an Asian insect that was accidentally introduced to the Eastern United States back in the early 1900's. It has spread throughout the Eastern states as far west as Ohio and Michigan.

This insect affects Fir, Hemlock and our most common evergreen tree, Spruce. It feeds on the needles, sucking out the nutrients, causing the foliage to turn brown and drop off. The insect is very hard to kill with pesticides and could have a major impact on Spruce trees if established in South Dakota.

Although the insect has not been found in South Dakota, any real evergreen decorations including, wreaths, swags, boughs and other evergreen decorations, unless bought from a locally grown source should be disposed of by carefully burning or sealing in a bag and disposing in the trash.

If you have questions, or want more information, please feel free to call or email me.
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