

Balsam twig aphid or Balsam woolly adelgid – Which is it?
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Balsam twig aphid (BTA)



Balsam twig aphid overwintering egg on needle.



BTA stem mother on bud.



BTA: Look for white cast skins and aphids feeding on current year needles

Balsam woolly adelgid (BWA)



Balsam woolly adelgid overwintering nymph on bud.



BWA female (under white waxy threads) near bud.



from NCCES Christmas Tree Note #18
BWA: Look for white cottony balls on bark



BTA damage- needles curled and sticky

All aphids overwinter as eggs.

BTA gives birth to live young during growing season.
Eggs are only produced in mid-summer.

Very common on true firs in Pennsylvania.



BWA damage: does not set a good top
But needles fully elongated and straight

Adelgids overwinter as immatures and develop into stem mother in spring.

BWA only reproduces by laying eggs.

Distribution in Pennsylvania very limited.