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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ohio Department of Agriculture Expands Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Quarantine

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (March 31, 2010) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture expanded Ohio’s quarantine on hemlock plant material entering into the state to protect against Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, an invasive pest that could cause significant economic and environmental damage.

Ohio’s quarantine, enforced by the Ohio Department of Agriculture’s Plant Industry Division, now includes Kentucky and Vermont as well as 48 new counties in various states due to the spread of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. Ohio regulations that cover the transportation of hemlock materials now prohibit any plant material from counties known to be infested from entering Ohio.

Hemlock materials grown in non-infested counties in quarantined states must be inspected and shipped with a phytosanitary certificate, which verifies that the material is free of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, before it can enter Ohio.

Throughout the past decade, several shipments of improperly certified or infested loads of hemlock nursery stock were stopped by Ohio Department of Agriculture inspectors. Material that is found to be improperly certified or infested entering Ohio will be either rejected back to the shipper or destroyed.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid is an invasive insect native to Asia that was first detected in the eastern U.S. in the 1950s. Since that time, it has destroyed hemlock trees throughout the Appalachian Mountains. Those planning to purchase hemlock from out-of-state vendors should contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture for an explanation of Ohio’s quarantine.

For more information about the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and Ohio’s quarantine, visit www.ohio.agri.gov.

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