



DATE: January 13, 2012  
TO: All County Agricultural Commissioners  
FROM: Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services  
SUBJECT: **A and Q Pest Report No. 50-2011**  
Weekly A and Q Report: For the week of December 8-14, 2011

Attached is the report for all A and Q pests intercepted or detected in California from December 8-14, 2011. Pests are identified by the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Plant Pest Diagnostics Laboratory.

### Hemlock Scale on firs

Over the 2011 holiday season, Orange County inspected multiple shipments of balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*) garlands, wreaths, and trees originating in Maine and North Carolina hosting live hemlock scale (*Abgrallaspis ithicae*). Additionally, shipments of Fraser fir (*Abies fraseri*) garlands, wreaths, and trees from these same origin states were been found to host live elongate hemlock scale (*Fiorinia externa*).

Both of these armored scale pests are Q-rated and are not known to occur in California. The infested firs were rejected under [California Food and Agricultural Code](#),



**PDR: Many**



[section 6461.5](#) (live pests). The firs were released if infested portions could be removed; or destroyed if heavy infestation throughout.

Since late November, Orange County issued approximately 70 notices of rejections due to hemlock scale and elongate hemlock scale.

Due to the high rate of recycling of Christmas trees and wreaths into green mulch for landscape use in the Orange County area, these infested shipments pose a pest risk to California.

*Photos courtesy of Orange County (Top right: Hemlock Scale. Bottom left: Elongate Hemlock Scale.)*

