

# Kentucky



## Forest Health Highlights

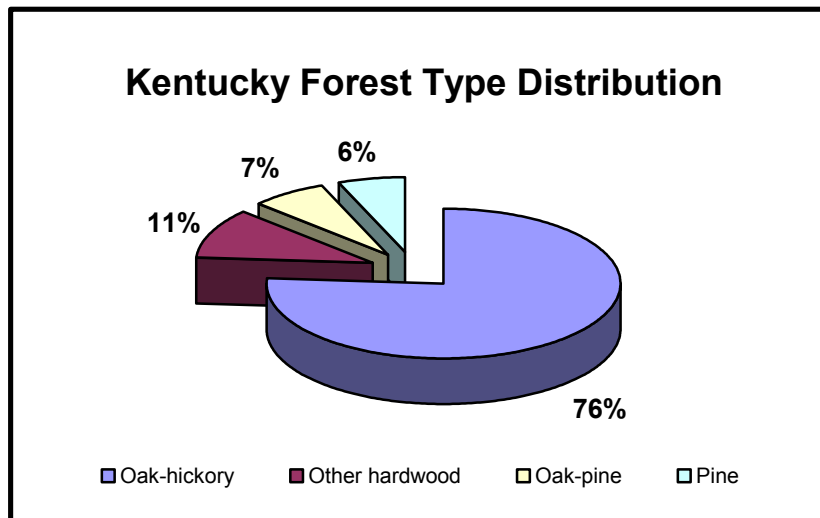
2007

### The Resource

Kentucky's forests cover more than 12.6 million acres, almost half of the state's land area. The majority of the state's forested land, some 11.2 million acres, is in non-industrial private ownership, while approximately 699,000 acres are in national forest. Forestry is an important industry in Kentucky, providing 29,400 jobs and producing \$468 million in annual revenue. Kentucky's forests are also prized for their scenic beauty, supporting tourism and outdoor recreation and providing wildlife habitat from the Appalachian Mountains in the east to the Mississippi Valley in the west. Major forest types in the state include oak-hickory, pine, and mixed oak-pine. Other hardwoods comprise 11% of the state's forests.



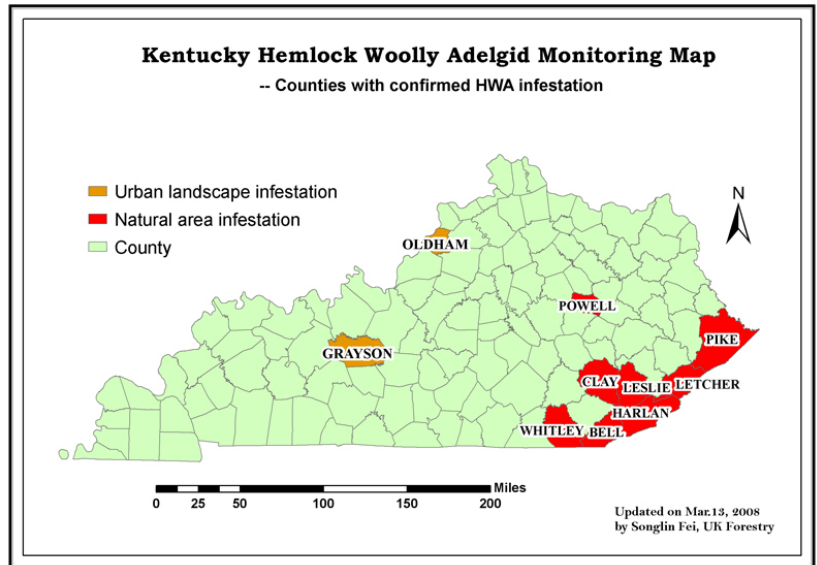
**Kentucky Forest Type Distribution**



## Forest Influences and Programs

**Southern pine beetle (SPB)** is Kentucky's most significant forest insect pest. In 2007, SPB activity was minimal, in large part due to host depletion in the eastern part of the state during epidemic conditions which occurred in prior years. Kentucky is thinning residual pine stands on State forest land in an effort to prevent future losses from this insect.

**Hemlock woolly adelgid** infestations have been reported in six counties since the initial infestation was discovered in 2006. To date, four southeastern Kentucky Counties (Bell, Harlan, Leslie, and Letcher) have naturally occurring infestations while two other counties have infestations resulting from the accidental introduction of infested nursery stock (X and X Counties). Twenty thousand predatory beetles were released in Bell and Harlan counties in 2007 and approximately 500 trees were chemically treated. Surveys on Kentucky Ridge State Forest in Bell County indicate that eighty percent of the creek drainages have some level of infestation. This forest encompasses 14,000 acres and includes Pine Mountain State Park. Surveys on neighboring Kentenia State Forest in Harlan County will be conducted this winter. It is likely that more infestations will be uncovered during this winter's surveys. Eastern Hemlock is native to the eastern one-third of Kentucky. There has not been any hemlock mortality to date and it is hoped that additional predatory beetle species will be available for release in 2008.



**Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)** survey efforts in 2007 found no evidence of activity in Kentucky. The survey consisted of trap trees at 39 sites across the state. Most of the sites were in Kentucky State Park campgrounds. The trap trees were girdled, felled and debarked to determine any evidence of EAB activity. With EAB just across the Ohio River in Cincinnati, it is believed that EAB is probably in Kentucky but hasn't been detected yet.

**Gypsy Moth**, a serious pest of hardwood forests, threatens Kentucky from the north and east. The Kentucky Division of Forestry and USDA Forest Service work closely together to monitor and quickly respond to outbreaks of the moth through a statewide early warning network of survey traps. In 2007, 171 moths were trapped. Campbell County in northern Kentucky led the state in number of captures with 33. This number reflects a small area where delimiting trapping has been done over several years. However, there were 82 captures in the eastern part of the state in 6 counties. It is believed that these are not indicative of an infestation but merely single captures. Both these areas will be more closely monitored this coming year.

**Forest tent caterpillar** continues to be in outbreak status as it moved into the northern Kentucky area just south of Cincinnati, Ohio. This pest resulted in many calls to Kentucky Department of Forestry concerning treatment by homeowners in this urban area. If the past movement of this pest is any indication, the northern Kentucky area will have high populations of FTC another two years before it moves eastward.

**Dogwood anthracnose** is a disease of cool, moist areas in the higher elevation forests of eastern and central Kentucky. It is currently causing significant mortality to native dogwoods in 63 counties in the state, but there has been little change in disease incidence or severity in 2007.



### **Forest Health Assistance in Kentucky**

<p><b>Kentucky Division of Forestry</b> 627 Comanche Trail Frankfort, KY 40601 502-564-4496 <a href="http://www.nrstate.ky.us/nrepc/dnr/forestry/dnrdof.html">http://www.nrstate.ky.us/nrepc/dnr/forestry/dnrdof.html</a></p>	<p><b>USDA Forest Service</b> Southern Region, State &amp; Private Forestry Forest Health Protection 200 W.T. Weaver Road Asheville, NC 28804 828-257-4320 <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/foresthealth/">http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/foresthealth/</a></p>
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