

Tennessee

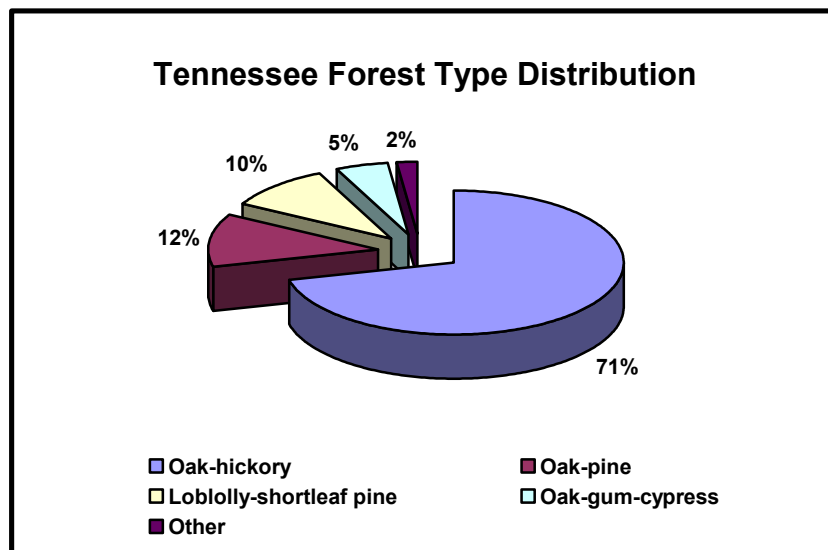


Forest Health Highlights

2007

The Resource

Tennessee's forests cover 14.4 million acres, more than half of the state's land area. The majority of the state's forested land, some 8.7 million acres, is in non-industrial private ownership, while approximately 556,000 acres are in national forest. Tennessee's forests are 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. The major forest type in the state is oak-hickory comprising 71% of the forested acres. Other major types include loblolly-shortleaf pine, and mixed oak-pine comprising 22%. Oak-gum-cypress and other species comprise just 7% of the state's forests.



Forest Influences and Programs

Southern pine beetle (SPB) activity in Tennessee in 2007 was very low with only 39 spots being detected in 5 counties. None were considered epidemic and only Chester County had a significant number (34).

Pine Engraver Beetles (*Ips* spp.) and black turpentine beetle accounted for hundreds of single to multiple-tree mortality spots widely scattered over pine host type. Summer drought stress and thin soils contribute much to the activity of these insects. Significant activity did occur in Bledsoe, Chester, and Rhea Counties where *Ips* spots of over 300 trees were recorded.

Hemlock woolly adelgid infestations continued to intensify and 4 new counties reported infestations for the first time in 2006 and 2007—Hamblen, Hamilton, Morgan, and Roane. Some chemical control efforts continue in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park as well as on some state and private lands. The rearing and release of adelgid predators is underway at the University of Tennessee.

Gypsy Moth populations were at low levels in 2007. Mass trapping efforts were conducted in Campbell, Claiborne and Cumberland Counties, but resulted in very low catches. Eradication areas will be reduced by over 90 percent statewide.

Oak decline reports were prevalent in 2007 as the summer drought affected red and other oaks, especially on dry sites. Decline may continue over the next few years as well as the effects of drought and secondary pests often play out over several years.

Freeze damage was big news in Tennessee in 2007 as an April 5-10 cold spell plunged state temperatures to record lows (mid-teens and low 20's) killing most new tree growth that emerged during warm temperatures. Trees were forced to put on new growth and thousands of acres were affected. Acorn and other seed crops will likely be affected as trees generally flower early in the spring.

Drought affected forestry efforts in 2007. In addition to oak decline as mentioned above, severe moisture deficits contributed to reduced survival rates of planted pines in several counties in southwestern Tennessee. Leaf scorch was common on many species.

The emerald ash borer poses a significant threat to the Tennessee ash resource and surveys continued in 2007 with traps designed to catch insects entering the state from other infested areas to the north. Public education efforts have been made to warn of the hazards of moving potentially infested firewood into the state.



Forest Health Assistance in Tennessee

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