

2009

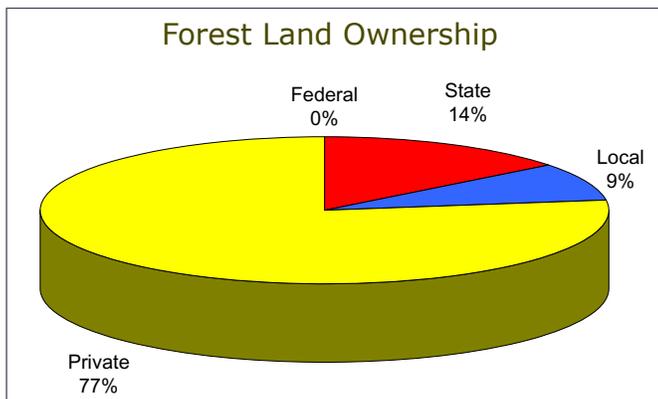
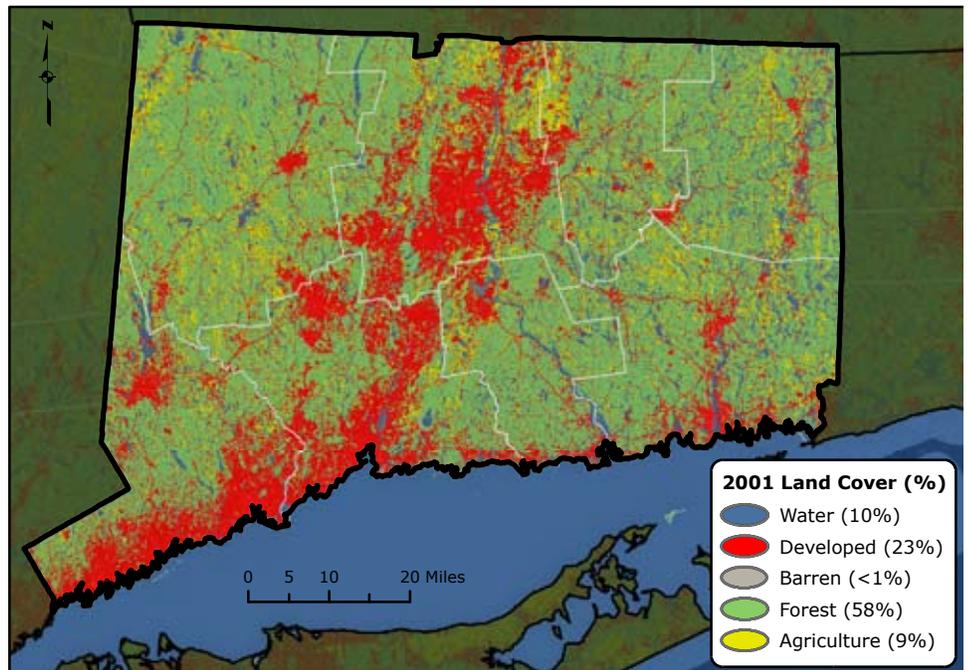
# Forest Health

CONNECTICUT *highlights*



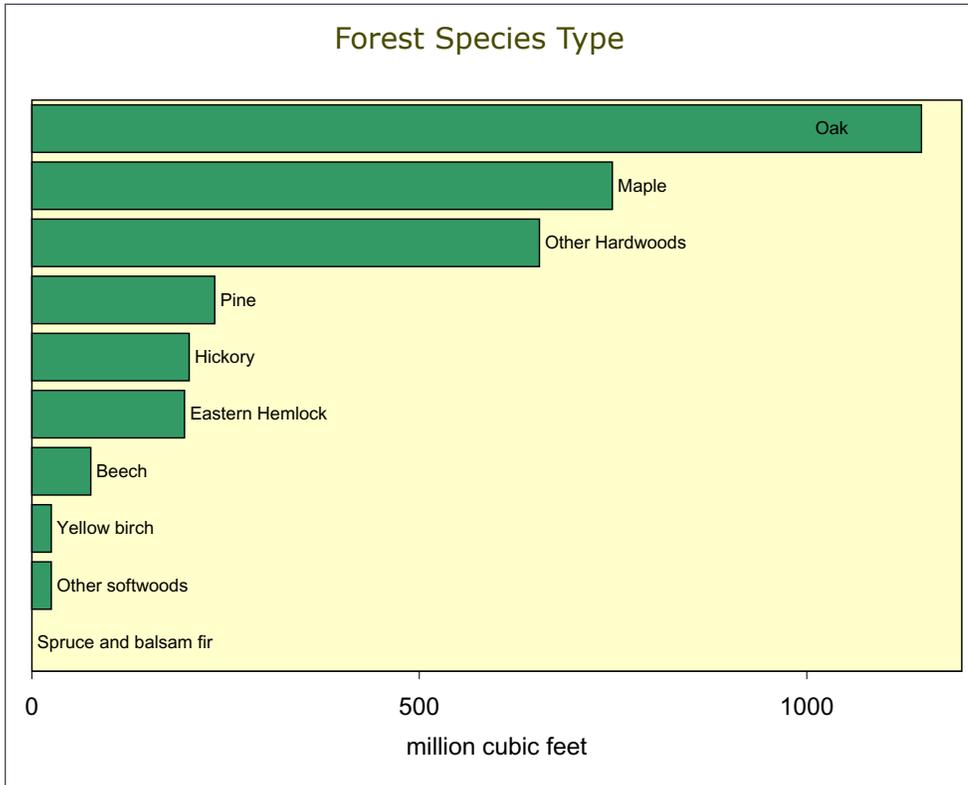
## Forest Resource Summary

Connecticut's forests are 77 percent privately owned, with the remainder of the lands in State or local town ownership. These forests provide clean water and air, wildlife habitat, and sources of recreation, timber, and fuel. Forested parks and shade trees aesthetically enhance communities as well as provide energy savings, habitat for wildlife, and recreation opportunities. The latest Connecticut forest inventory estimates that 58 percent of the State is forested, approximately 1.8 million acres. The forest resource is made up of a variety of forest types—mostly oak, maples, and other hardwoods—along with pine and eastern hemlock.



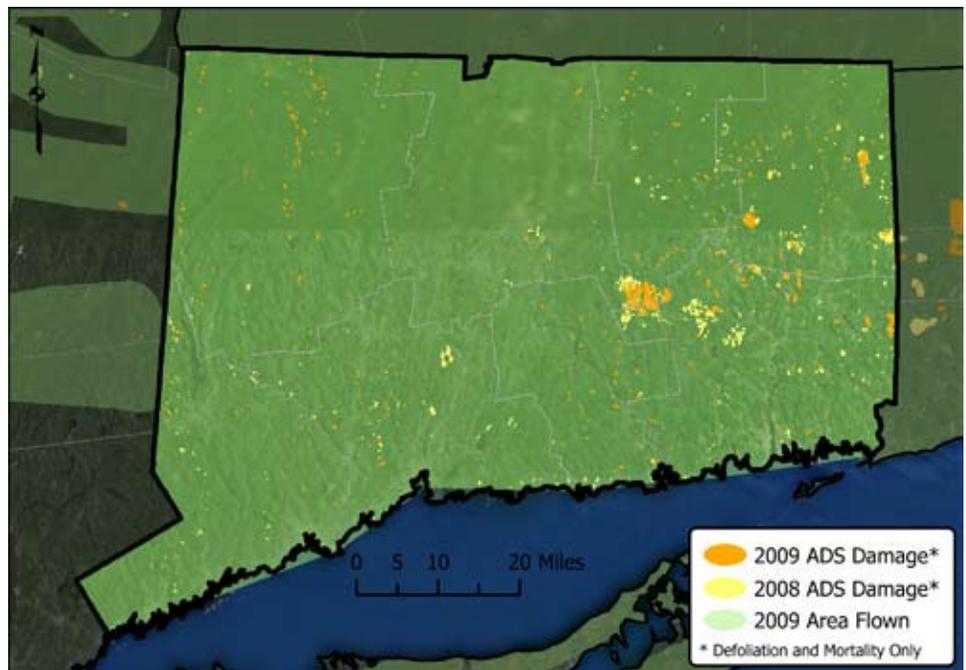
## Forest Health Programs in the Northeast

State forestry agencies work in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service to monitor forest conditions and trends in their State and respond to pest outbreaks to protect the forest resource.



## Aerial Surveys

In Connecticut, nearly 32,530 acres of damage were reported. Discoloration was the major type of damage observed, with leaf spot diseases affecting 14,844 acres and hemlock woolly adelgid causing damage on 1,279 acres. The second major cause of tree damage was insect defoliators. Gypsy moth damage accounted for 6,709 acres, orange-striped oakworm caused 5,215 acres of damage, and forest tent caterpillar was responsible for 1,900 acres of damage. In December 2008, a severe ice storm hit the New England area, affecting 1,711 acres throughout Connecticut.



This map delineates aerial detection survey (ADS) results for Connecticut in 2008 and 2009.

## Forest Damage

As in 2008, Connecticut received above-average levels of rainfall in 2009. The increased rain during the growing season resulted in higher levels of foliar diseases on most hardwood trees, such as anthracnose on maples and sycamores, and **Septoria leaf spot** on maples. The combined effect of these diseases was early browning and defoliation in severely affected areas of the State. Damage caused by Septoria leaf spot was significant enough to be observed during aerial survey flights, with 14,844 acres showing damage.

The increased rainfall also meant that *Entomophaga maimaiga*, the fungus that keeps **gypsy moth** populations in check, was again very effective in infecting and killing larvae of this defoliating insect. Defoliation due to gypsy moth feeding was slight, with only 6,709 acres having notable damage in the State.

Defoliation from the **forest tent caterpillar** has increased slightly over the past few years, with 1,900 acres of damage. **Orange-striped oakworm** defoliated nearly 5,215 acres, fewer than in 2008.

Ongoing surveys continue for several exotic pests that have not been found in Connecticut, including **Asian longhorned beetle**, **emerald ash borer**, and **Sirex wood wasp**. Interest in Asian longhorned beetle, currently infesting trees nearby in Worcester, MA, is high. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station has received over 175 calls of possible sightings. All of the reports have been negative; many were identified as either the white spotted sawyer or western conifer seed bug. Suspect sightings of this serious invasive pest should be reported to the Station by sending an email to [CAES.StateEntomologist@ct.gov](mailto:CAES.StateEntomologist@ct.gov).

The health of hemlock stands in Connecticut has exhibited general recovery from the **hemlock woolly adelgid**. Large areas of the northern half of the State have shown excellent new growth. In general, damage from the **elongate hemlock scale**, another exotic pest, continues to increase. This is especially noticeable on true firs and spruce, possibly due to mild winter conditions. The **circular scale** is found sporadically.

**Beech bark disease** is endemic statewide and is causing mortality on stressed trees. Ash trees continue to suffer from ash decline complex, even though the incidence of **ash rust** was low.

**Butternut canker**, caused by several fungi in the genus *Phomopsis*, is widespread in the butternut tree population. Another pathogen, *Melanconis*, is found throughout the State.

Trees possibly symptomatic of **oak wilt** were monitored in 2009. The fungus that causes the wilt, *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, was not isolated from any of the suspect trees. The site will be monitored for at least an additional year, and samples will be collected if warranted.

One watershed stream was baited with *Rhododendron* leaves from April through September to survey for *Phytophthora ramorum*, the causal agent of Ramorum **blight**. Although other species of *Phytophthora* were detected through laboratory analysis, *P. ramorum* was not found.



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