

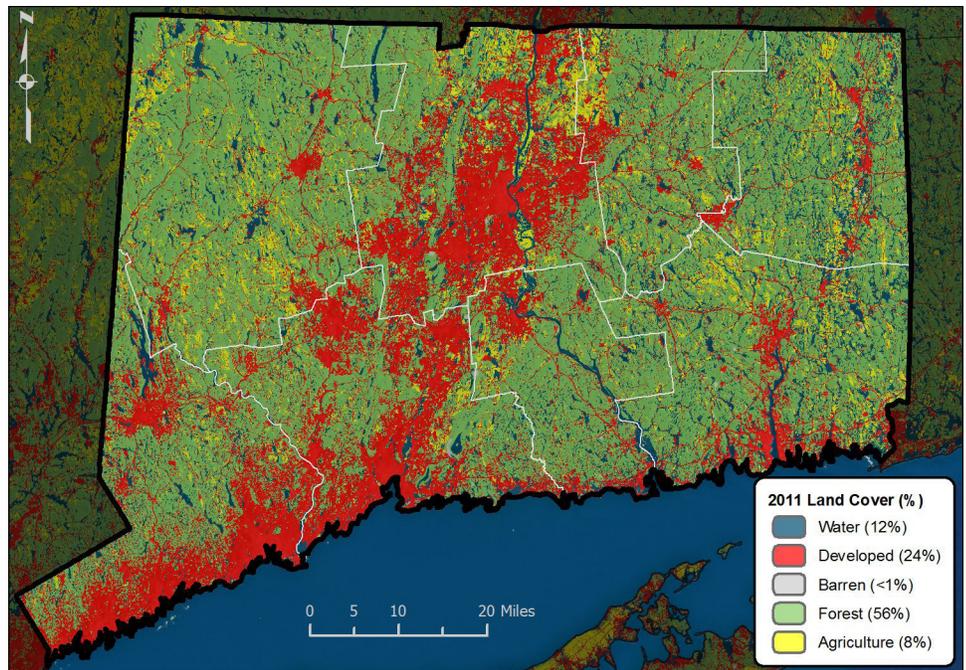
2014 Forest Health

CONNECTICUT *highlights*

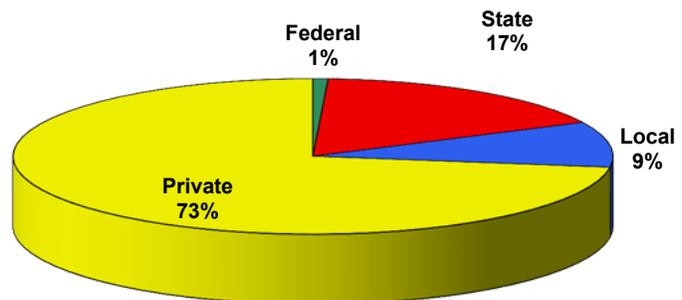


Forest Resource Summary

Connecticut's forests are 73 percent privately owned, predominantly by families and individuals, but also by corporations, tribes, conservation groups, and clubs. The other 27 percent of Connecticut's forest land is in Federal, 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 and provide energy savings, habitat for wildlife, and recreation opportunities. According to the U.S. Forest Service 2013 forest inventory, Connecticut has approximately 1.8 million acres of forest. That forest land area has not changed substantially since the last estimate in 2007. The forest resource is made up of a variety of forest types—



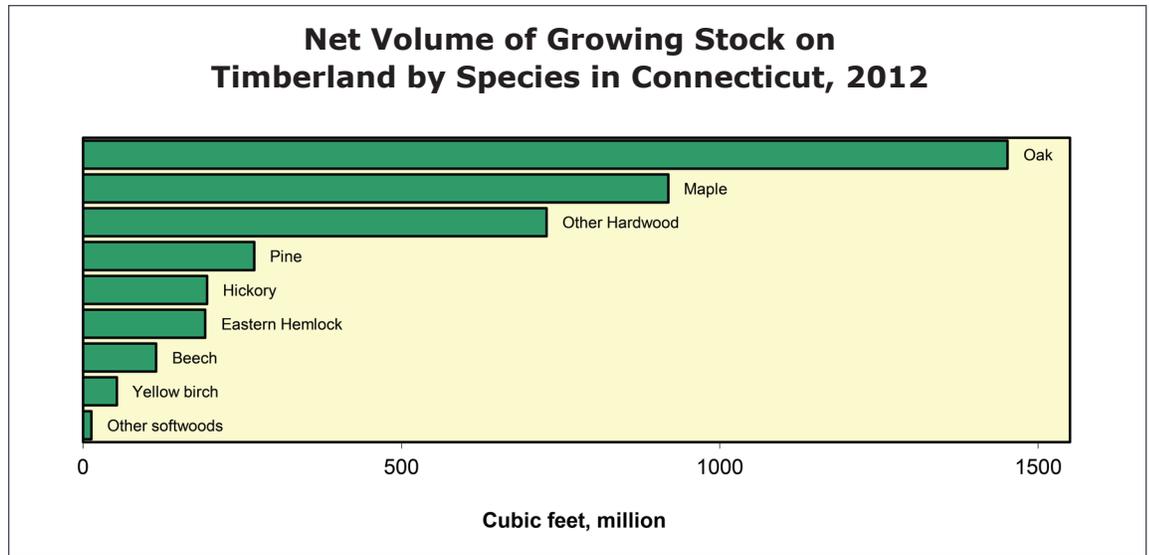
Forest Land Ownership in Connecticut, 2012



Forest Health Programs in the Northeast

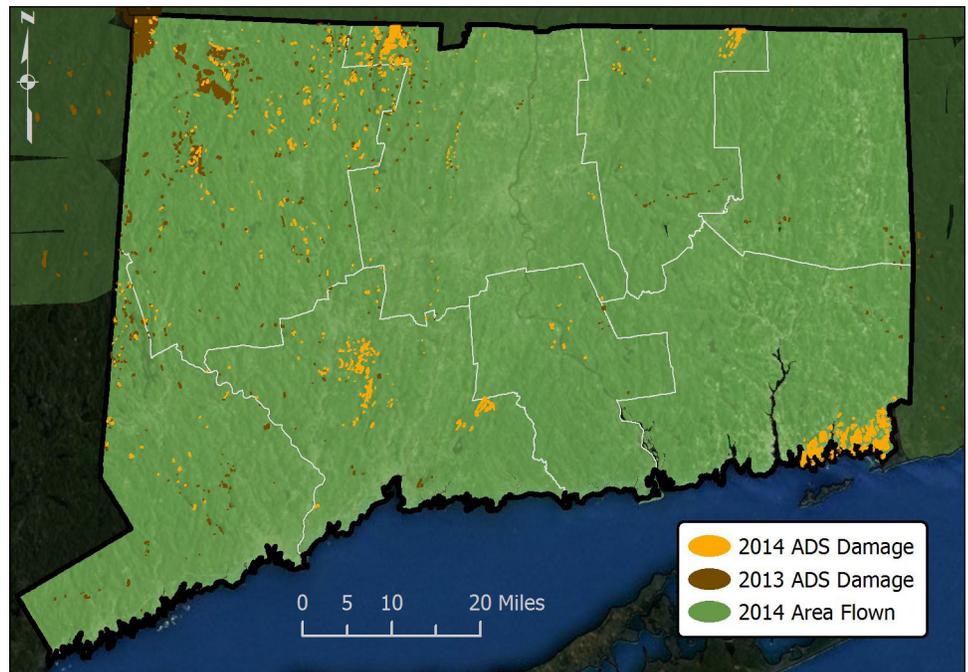
State forestry agencies work in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service to monitor forest conditions and trends in their State and respond to pest outbreaks to protect the forest resource.

mostly oak, maples, and other hardwoods—along with pine, hickory, beech, yellow birch, and eastern hemlock.



Aerial Surveys

There was a total of about 22,800 acres of damage mapped by aerial survey in Connecticut in 2014, slightly less than in 2013. The largest factors were elongate hemlock scale, which was heaviest in the northwestern part of the State, and winter moth defoliation in New London County. Together these pests accounted for more than half the total damage observed. Emerald ash borer and gypsy moth also caused a significant amount of defoliation, mostly in New Haven County. A little over 1,600 acres of discoloration from ash decline/ash yellows were scattered throughout the State. There was some discoloration from hemlock woolly adelgid, locust leafminer, and red pine scale that totaled less than 1,000 acres combined. Damage from severe weather and storms was mapped on about 135 acres in Litchfield County.



Aerial Detection Survey (ADS) observations in Connecticut in 2013 and 2014.

Forest Damage

Weather Events

During May 2014, a localized severe thunderstorm struck the hills of northwestern Litchfield County. Wind and hail from this event damaged about 135 acres of mixed hardwoods that resulted in broken branches and trunks, defoliation, and mortality.

Insects

Emerald ash borer was first found in Connecticut in New Haven County in July 2012 in a colony of *Cerceris* wasps. Since then, the insect has been found, both in *Cerceris* colonies and in purple traps, in five additional counties (Fairfield, Litchfield, Hartford, Middlesex, and New London). Trapping for this insect and monitoring of *Cerceris* colonies continued in 2014. Aerial survey detected 2,456 acres of dead and declining trees in the areas of New Haven County where the infestation was first detected.



Cerceris wasp in flight over colony. (Photo: Peter Rzasa, CT Wasp Watcher)

In 2014, **gypsy moth** larval feeding damaged about 1,337 acres in Middlesex and New Haven Counties. During egg mass surveys in winter 2013–2014, there were areas with enough egg masses to consider an outbreak possible.

No defoliation due to larval feeding of **forest tent caterpillar** or **orange-striped oakworm** was recorded in 2014. **Red pine scale** was described in Connecticut in the 1940s and causes sporadic damage. Statewide, red pine scale affected a total of 5.5 acres; many stands of red pine have been eliminated due to the presence of red pine scale.

The following pests were surveyed for, and not found, in 2014: **Asian longhorned beetle**, **light brown apple moth**, and **Sirex woodwasp**. **Brown marmorated stink bug** causes sporadic damage to fruit crops and was increasingly becoming an indoor pest, especially in late summer and autumn when the insects move into homes in search of an overwintering site.

The health of hemlock stands in Connecticut continued to show general recovery from **hemlock woolly adelgid**, with large areas of the northern half of the State showing excellent new growth. Hemlock woolly adelgid affected only about 186 acres statewide in 2014. In general, damage due to **elongate hemlock scale** continued to increase, especially on true firs and spruce, possibly due to mild winter conditions. Elongate hemlock scale damage was recorded on 9,146 acres. **Circular scale** is found sporadically.

Black oak gall wasp, also known as the crypt gall wasp, was detected on black oak in New London County in 2014. This insect has been reported to cause mortality on black and other related oaks, especially in coastal areas such as Cape Cod. Since this insect was detected, oak monitoring in the coastal reserves will be scrutinized.

Winter moth exploded in 2014, causing measurable damage on 7,441 acres, generally in the coastal areas of New London County. Predators of this insect have been released. It is anticipated that damage will continue to increase, with possible effects on regeneration of understory trees and shrubs.

Pathogens

Beech bark disease was endemic statewide and killing stressed trees.

Due to the limited number of walnut trees in Connecticut, there is no monitoring program for **thousand cankers disease**, even though this disease is the subject of a number of newly enacted quarantine regulations for many States.

References

Land Cover Map:

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Net Volume of Growing Stock on Timberland by Species:

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