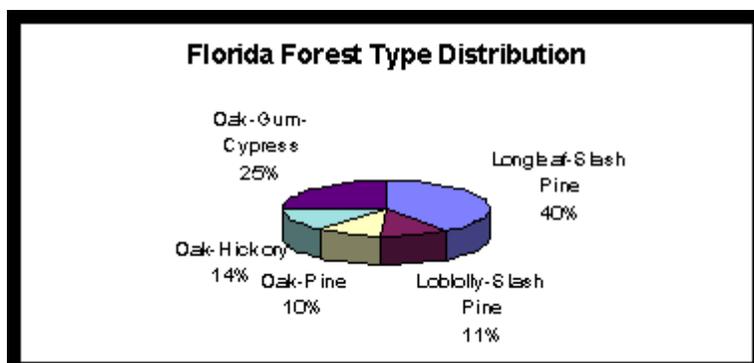


# Forest Health Highlights 1997

## Florida

The Florida Division of Forestry provides forest health protection assistance to state and private land managers within the State. This program is funded cooperatively by the State and the USDA Forest Service Forest Health Protection unit



### Florida Forest Facts

- Over **40%** of Florida is **forested** (more than 14.6 million acres).
- Over **80%** of forested acreage in Florida is **privately owned**.
- The **National Forests in Florida** (1,029,500 acres) provide recreational and wildlife benefits as well as timber products and jobs for thousands of people.
- Emphasis on short-rotation management with artificial regeneration (tree planting) on privately owned land means that there is a constant and high demand for healthy seedlings. There were no significant pest outbreaks reported from any of the 7 forest tree nurseries, though, routine monitoring did detect low level activity for several common nursery pests.
- The Florida Division of Forestry Forest Health section has the lead in a regional project to develop **alternatives to methyl bromide fumigation** to protect seedlings from soil-borne insects and pathogens.
- **Fusiform rust** and **pitch canker** continue to be the most serious diseases of southern pines in Florida.
- Starting in 1997, Florida experienced an unusual **southern pine beetle** (SPB) outbreak that occurred in Marion and Levy Counties (near the cities of Ocala and Silver Springs). This is the farthest south that SPB has been documented within the state, yet 1997 had record setting losses for the state. SPB killed almost 8,000 acres and the outlook is for continued problems.
- The incidence and magnitude of **pine engraver beetle** infestations increased from October to December 1997, following an unusual and prolonged drought. Infestations were larger and more prevalent in stands that had been recently thinned.
- Florida also experienced tree defoliation by **pine sawflies**, **forest tent caterpillar** and the **cypress looper** in 1996. Each of these outbreaks caused public nuisance, landowner concern,

tree growth loss, but only limited mortality. The defoliation by forest tent caterpillar is continuing in 1997.

- The Florida Division of Forestry is becoming more involved with investigations to develop biological control agents for **exotic weed pests**. They are about to undertake a project with the USDA Forest Service to control Cogangrass.

## The Florida Division of Forestry and USDA Forest Service

In spite of the relatively good health of Florida's forests, a variety of insects and diseases (both native and introduced), and human-caused impacts such as changes in land use patterns, continue to threaten the State's resources. To deal with this constantly changing mix of challenges, the Division of Forestry and the Forest Health Protection unit of the USDA Forest Service cooperate to prevent, detect, suppress and manage this multitude of threats. The partnership between the two agencies has worked for three decades to maintain and improve the health of Florida's forests.

***Forest Health Protection contributions (dollars) to Florida Division of Forestry Cooperative Forest Health program, cooperative pest suppression projects, and National Forests in Florida pest suppression projects, 1995-1998.***

	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
<b>Cooperative Forest Health Program</b>	59,775	63,525	63,525	69,000
<b>Cooperative suppression</b>				
southern pine beetle	174,196	0	0	100,000
<b>NFs in Florida -</b>				
southern pine beetle	15,000	0	67,000	30,000

**For additional information, contact:**

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