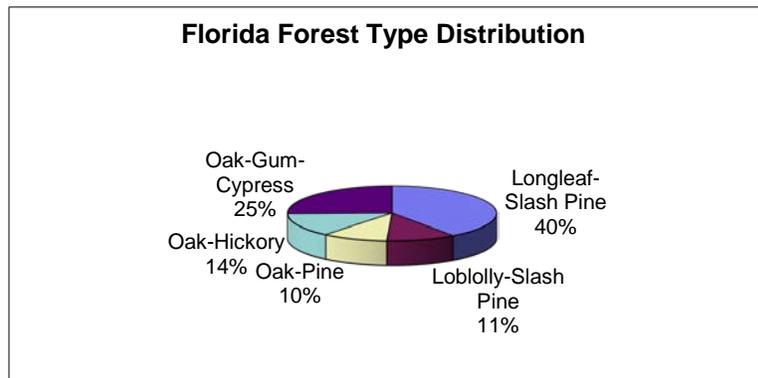


Forest Health Highlights - 1998

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.
- The Florida Division of Forestry Forest Health Section has provided leadership to a regional project in evaluating **alternatives to methyl bromide fumigation** in forest tree nurseries.
- **Fusiform rust** remains an ongoing problem on slash and loblolly pines in Florida. **Pitch canker**, **annosum root disease**, **Phytophthora**, **root rot of sand pines**, and **southern cone rust** are occasionally problematic in pine plantations and seed orchards.
- **Wildfires** ravaged much of Florida in 1998. These fires resulted in secondary losses from opportunistic responders such as **wood boring**, **pine engraver** and **black turpentine beetles**. Ramifications could continue to be felt for several years, as mortality of weakened trees will continue.
- The Florida Division of Forestry is acquiring a trend analysis of **coastal forest change** with Forest Health Monitoring evaluation funds.
- 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 with almost 1 million trees killed on nearly 8,000 acres. In 1998, losses dropped to almost nothing. To date, SPB problems have not developed in the fire-damaged timber.
- The Florida Division of Forestry is becoming more involved with investigations to develop integrated pest management strategies for **exotic weeds**. They are currently cooperating on a

research project with the USDA Forest Service and University of Florida, targeting cogongrass in forested areas.

- In north-central Florida, a number of young (2-6 years old) pine plantations adjoining recent clearcuts, and young residual trees within shelterwood cuts, experienced various degrees of stem and branch damage from **reproduction weevil** feeding and noticeable to severe defoliation by **metallic wood borers**. Most of the affected trees are expected to recover given the temporary nature of the insect feeding, although some minor amounts of tree mortality have been observed.

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, 1996-1999.

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
Cooperative Forest Health Program	63,525	63,525	69,000	69,000
Cooperative suppression				
southern pine beetle	0	0	100,000	0
NFs in Florida -				
southern pine beetle	0	67,000	30,000	10,000

For additional information, contact:

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