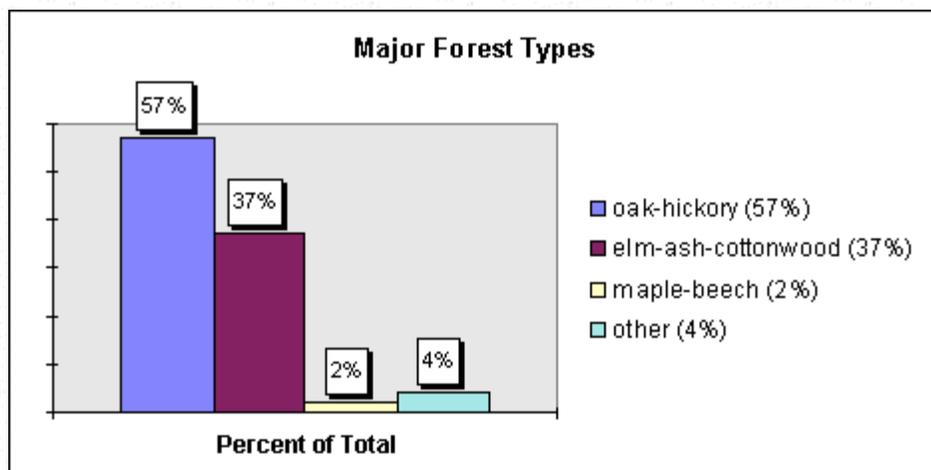


1999 Forest Health Highlights Illinois

The Resource

Illinois forests have many recreation and wildlife benefits. In addition, over 37,000 people are employed in primary and secondary wood processing and manufacturing. The net volume of growing stock has increased by 40 percent since 1962, a reversal of the trend from 1948 to 1962. The volume of elms has continued to decrease due to Dutch elm disease, but red and white oaks, along with black walnut, have increased by 38 to 54 percent since 1962.



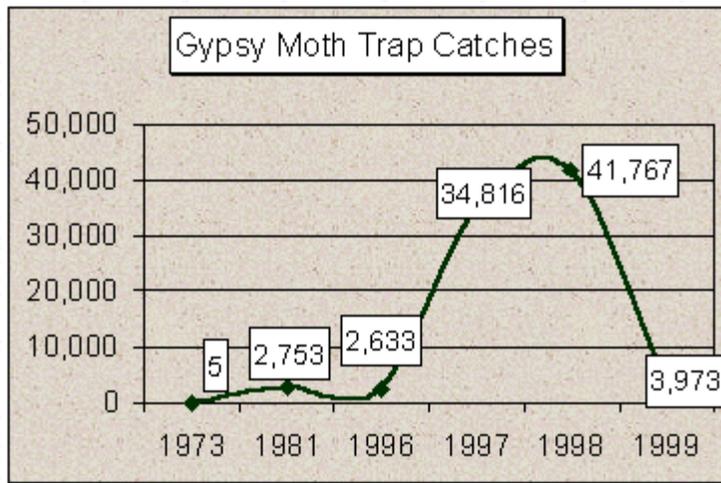
Asian longhorned beetle

The excellent cooperative efforts among federal, state, and Chicago officials in striving to eradicate the beetle from Illinois appears to have paid off well in drastically reducing the beetle population in 1999. According to a report from the Chicago Dept. of Streets and Sanitation only 93 infested trees were found in 1999 compared to about 1051 discovered in 1998. The success of the program can also be attributed to the superb coverage by the news media of the progress of the program and keeping the public informed about the various aspects of the beetle's biology and where to call to report beetle findings. In conducting tree surveys, the use of tower trucks and tree climbers in Illinois proved to be invaluable in locating infested trees. The Illinois beetle eradication effort has cost about \$2.2 million, but most of the costs for tree removal and replacement will be covered by federal grants and a \$400,000 donation from Commonwealth Edison. With the cooperation of the public, news media, federal, and state agencies it is hoped that in the near future the beetle will be eradicated from Illinois.

Gypsy moth

The total number of gypsy moth adults trapped in Illinois in 1999 was 3,973 compared to a total of 41,767 trapped in 1998. Several factors contributed to this reduction. Fewer traps were set in 1999 within the counties where high numbers of moths were captured the previous year. This

resulted in a great reduction in total moth catches in 1999. The spraying of *Bacillus thuringiensis* onto some infested areas and the heavy spring rains in 1999 at the time of egg hatch were also probable contributing factors to the overall reduction in moth numbers.



In the counties of Lake and McHenry the infestation is widespread and it appears that these counties will be quarantined in the near future to help slow the spread.

Pine shoot beetle

Through educational programs conducted throughout the state for the past 8 years, Christmas tree growers and foresters have learned to follow techniques that have greatly reduced beetle numbers. The removal and destruction of all dead and dying pine trees, insecticide applications on pine stumps, and the removal of all pine slash have been techniques stressed at all educational meetings. Because beetle populations have remained very low for the past 5 years no surveying for the beetle was conducted within Illinois in 1999.

European pine sawfly

Moderate to heavy infestations of the sawfly occurred during May on Scotch, Austrian, and red pines in the northern half of Illinois during 1999. Excellent control resulted when insecticide treatments were applied to young larvae in early May.

Fall webworm

Northern and west central counties reported heavy infestations of the fall webworm on walnut, hickory, black cherry, hawthorn, and oaks during August. No control is recommended as the damage occurs late in the growing season and no permanent injury appears to result from infestations.

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