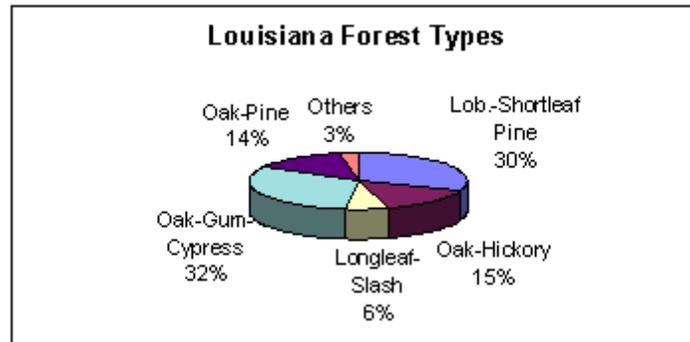


# Forest Health Highlights 1997

## Louisiana

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



### **Louisiana Forest Facts**

- Almost **50%** of the entire state of Louisiana is **forested** (13.8 million acres).
- Over **90%** of forested acreage in Louisiana is **privately owned**.
- The **Kisatchie National Forest** (603,700 acres) provides recreational and wildlife benefits as well as forest products and jobs for thousands of people.
- The **southern pine beetle** is Louisiana's most important forest insect pest. In 1995, a significant outbreak affected a large proportion of the State. Beetle populations declined in 1996, but losses continued in the Florida Parishes and the northwestern portion of the State. In 1997, beetle population continued to decline, with 601 SPB spots affecting approximately 109,000 acres. The outlook for 1998 is for populations to increase slightly.
- In 1997, the **forest tent caterpillar** defoliated over 230,000 acres of, primarily, tupelo gum in forested wetlands.
- The **fruittree leafroller** defoliated baldcypress over an area of 525,000 acres in southeastern and south central LA in 1997. Although the predominant impact is loss of growth, repeated annual defoliation has resulted in significant crown dieback and mortality of sapling/pole-sized cypress.
- Defoliation of loblolly pines by the **loblolly pine sawfly** occurred on approximately 3,000 acres in the spring of 1997. Caldwell parish was most heavily affected, with lesser amounts in LaSalle and Winn Parishes.
- **The larger elm leaf beetle** again affected approx. 3,500 acres of mixed elms in the Sherburne Wildlife Management Area (Iberville Parish). Wildlife biologists report tree mortality apparent related to the defoliation.
- The **buck moth** population was found to be on the rise again in and around federal historical districts in New Orleans.

## The Louisiana Office of Forestry and USDA Forest Service

In spite of the relatively good health of Louisiana's forests, a variety of insects and diseases (both native and introduced), and human-caused impacts such as air pollution, continue to threaten the State's resources. To deal with this constantly changing mix of challenges, the Office 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 Louisiana's forests.

---

***Forest Health Protection contributions (dollars) to the Louisiana Office of Forestry Cooperative Forest Health program, cooperative suppression projects, and Kisatchie National Forest suppression projects, 1995-98.***

	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
<b>Cooperative Forest Health Program</b>	62,963	66,913	66,913	66,913
<b>Cooperative suppression</b>				
southern pine beetle	0	0	225,000	0
<b>Kisatchie National Forest</b>				
southern pine beetle	31,199	152,573	65,000	51,000

***For additional information, contact:***

Louisiana Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry  
Office of Forestry  
P.O. Box 1628  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

USDA Forest Service  
Forest Health Protection  
2500 Shreveport Highway  
Pineville, LA 71360