

1994 Forest Health Highlights

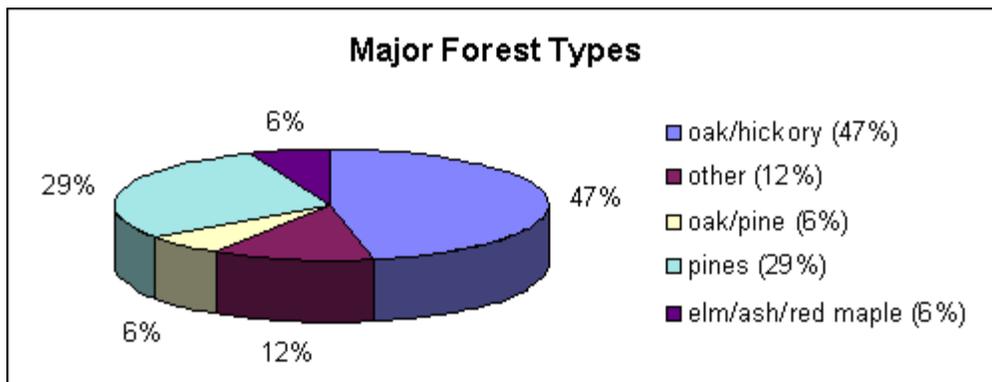
New Jersey

The Resource

Despite the fact that New Jersey has more people per square mile than any other State, forests cover 42 percent of the State. Forests are an integral part of the New Jersey landscape covering nearly 2 million acres. The Counties of Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May, Cumberland, Ocean, and Sussex are more than 50 percent forested.

Most forestland in the State is privately owned, but there are also 11 State Forests, 37 State Parks, and 4 Recreation Areas.

Oak/hickory is the predominant forest type in northern New Jersey. Pinelands (encompassing over 500,000 acres) comprise most of the forests found in southern New Jersey. Pitch pine, oak, and Atlantic white cedar are found in the Pinelands Region.



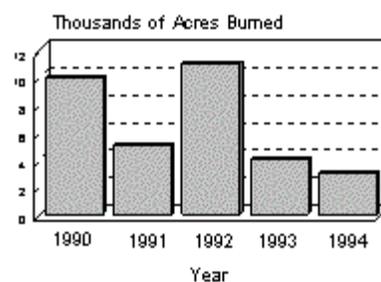
Special Issues

Nestled in with the broad expanse of oak throughout northern New Jersey are almost 26,000 acres of eastern hemlock since 1983. A small aphid-like insect, the **hemlock woolly adelgid**, has infested hemlocks and caused dieback and tree mortality. The New Jersey Bureau of Forest Management is closely monitoring the effects of the adelgid. Control measures have been attempted with limited success.

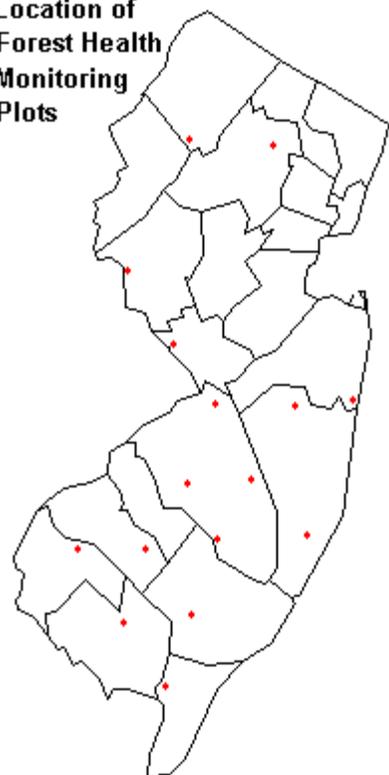
The southern New Jersey pinelands are the most ecologically fragile forest within the State. They are also forests, in which **fire** plays a major role. The Pinelands are one of the most hazardous wildland fuel types in the Nation. Pineland fires burn hot and spread rapidly. Though fire is important to the ecology of the Pinelands, the presence of residential communities within the Pinelands makes for a potentially dangerous situation. In 1995, a 20,000-acre fire threatened residences in Ocean and Burlington Counties.

The last major **gypsy moth** infestation occurred in 1990 when 431,235 acres Statewide were defoliated. Over the last 4 years, populations have declined. In 1994, only 17,846 acres were defoliated Statewide. The fungus, *Entomophaga maimaiga*, is

Fire in the Pinelands



Location of Forest Health Monitoring Plots



thought to be the causal factor in keeping gypsy moth populations low. During May 1995, 7,800 acres were treated with the bacterial insecticide, B.t., on privately-owned residential forestland.

Regional Surveys

FOREST HEALTH MONITORING PROGRAM

Since 1991, New Jersey has participated in the National Forest Health Monitoring Program. This joint State-Federal effort serves to assess trends in forest conditions and forest stressors. Sixteen Forest Health Monitoring plots are monitored each year within the State. Results indicate minimal change in forest health conditions. The most common damage noted on Forest Health Monitoring plots has been decay.

For More Information

G. Lester Alpaugh
State Forester
New Jersey Forest Service
CN-404
Trenton, NJ 08625

609-292-2531

Daniel B. Twardus
Forest Health Protection
USDA Forest Service
180 Canfield Street
Morgantown, WV 26505

304-285-1545