

# 2006 Forest Health Highlights

## New York



sugar  
Maple

January 2007

### The Resource

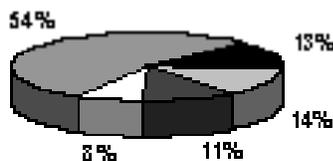
New York's forests provide a recreational base for millions of residents and others visiting the State's scenic regions. Forests are also productive in timber, providing employment to 2 percent of the State's workforce. The manufacture of wood products provides \$2.4 billion annually to

- 62% of the State is forested (18,641,300 acres)

#### Out of the forested area:

- 82.6% timberland
- 17.4% noncommercial or reserved forest land (data unpublished)

#### Major Forest Types:



- white/red pine/hemlock (13%)
- oak/hickory (14%)
- other (11%)
- elm/aspen/red maple (8%)
- northern hardwoods (54%)

### Special Issues

In February 2005, a significant forest health issue emerged with the identification of the **Sirex woodwasp**, *Sirex noctilio*, a new invasive threat. This new invasive pest of pines was the subject of an intensive statewide trapping survey in 2006. It has now been confirmed in 25 counties in the state, from the western tip of the state as far east as Hamilton County. Given the relatively low efficiency of the traps and lures currently available for *Sirex noctilio*, it is not unlikely that other New York counties are also infested but escaped detection by trapping. Sirex woodwasp has also been confirmed by trapping in Pennsylvania and Ontario, Canada.

**Forest tent caterpillar** was again the most significant defoliator in New York. Heavy defoliation occurred in a band from east of the Finger Lakes to the Adirondack and Catskill mountains. Preliminary egg mass surveys indicate that there will be significant defoliation again in 2007, despite the fact that a large number of caterpillars were killed by disease this year.

Moderate to heavy defoliation associated by the **gypsy moth** occurred in western New York around the Finger Lakes and southern tier areas, along with some light to moderate defoliation near the New Jersey and Massachusetts borders.

The **Asian longhorned beetle** is still a major concern within the State. A quarantine is in effect encompassing all known infested areas, and all known infested trees are chipped or burned in an effort to eradicate the pest. Cooperative efforts to eradicate the beetle from the quarantined areas in New York City and Long Island are ongoing, but progress is slow. Meanwhile, no new infestations outside of the quarantines have been detected.



The **hemlock woolly adelgid** continues to cause damage and mortality to native forest and ornamental eastern hemlock trees. Damage is most severe in areas that have been infested for several years in the Catskills and southeast portion of the State. In some areas a majority of the trees are infested and many of those are in declining health or dead. Pockets of hemlock mortality can be seen from the air in infested areas. No new counties were found to be infested in 2006, but adelgid populations are noticeably increased within the infested areas, and two new infested properties were found in Monroe County in Rochester, where a spot infestation had been thought to be eradicated. The **hemlock elongate scale** is common in approximately the same range as hemlock woolly adelgid and often, but not always, found in the same stands.

## Special Issues cont.

A positive for *Phytophthora ramorum*, the causal agent for Ramorum Blight (Sudden Oak Death), was reported from Long Island in June 2004. Subsequent surveys and samples all indicated that *P. ramorum* was not present on the site, and none of the State's other surveys, which centered mostly on Long Island, found the pathogen. Although a USDA APHIS quarantine of the site remains in place, it is the opinion of the New York Department of Environmental Conservation and most other experts that the initial lab result was false. In 2006, 30 more locations were surveyed for the disease, with all samples testing negative for the pathogen.

A **bacterial leaf scorch** survey in southern New York resulted in positive finds in Kings County in Brooklyn, Rockland County, and Westchester County. This pathogen is a problem on hardwoods in New Jersey.

**Butternut canker** is common in New York wherever butternut is found. It is uncommon to see a symptom-free butternut.

**Dogwood anthracnose** continues to affect understory and ornamental flowering dogwood across the state.

Symptoms of **beech bark disease** and **Dutch elm disease**

In the early 1990s, the **European common pine shoot beetle** was discovered infesting pine plantations around the Great Lakes. The beetle is primarily a problem in pine Christmas tree plantations. First found in western New York in 1993, the insect now occurs across most of the State. Pine shoot beetle was not found in any new counties in 2006. No significant damage by the insect has been reported.

Surveys for **emerald ash borer** resulted in no finds for the insect, but many more stands with ash showing various symptoms of decline were mapped. A few cases of ash yellows were found in these stands as well.

An early **snow storm** on October 12th felled trees and broke limbs in western New York, with the most serious damage centered around Erie and Niagara counties. The extent of the damage has not

## Regional Surveys

The year 2006 marked the fifth field season of annualized plot data collection in New York by the **National Forest Inventory and Analysis Program**. Data will be collected and analyzed in a rotating 5-panel scheme, with one-fifth of the plots being visited each panel. A subset of these plots are co-located **Forest Health Monitoring** (Phase 3) plots, as the two national programs have merged. A summary report of *Forest Health Monitoring in the Northeast* can be found at <http://fhn.fs.fed.us>.

## Stewardship

Among the several NY DEC programs that contribute to forest health improvement, the Stewardship Program has the potential to reach a large number of forest landowners. All forest management plans prepared under the Stewardship Program include a forest protection component. The planning process helps alert forest landowners to potential and existing forest health conditions and procedures to protect forest resources.

### For More Information

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