



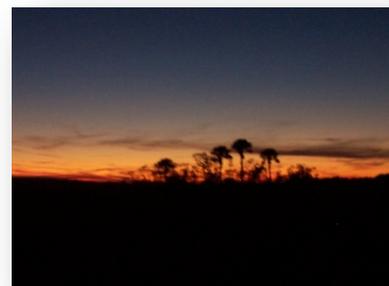
South Carolina

Forest Health Highlights 2012



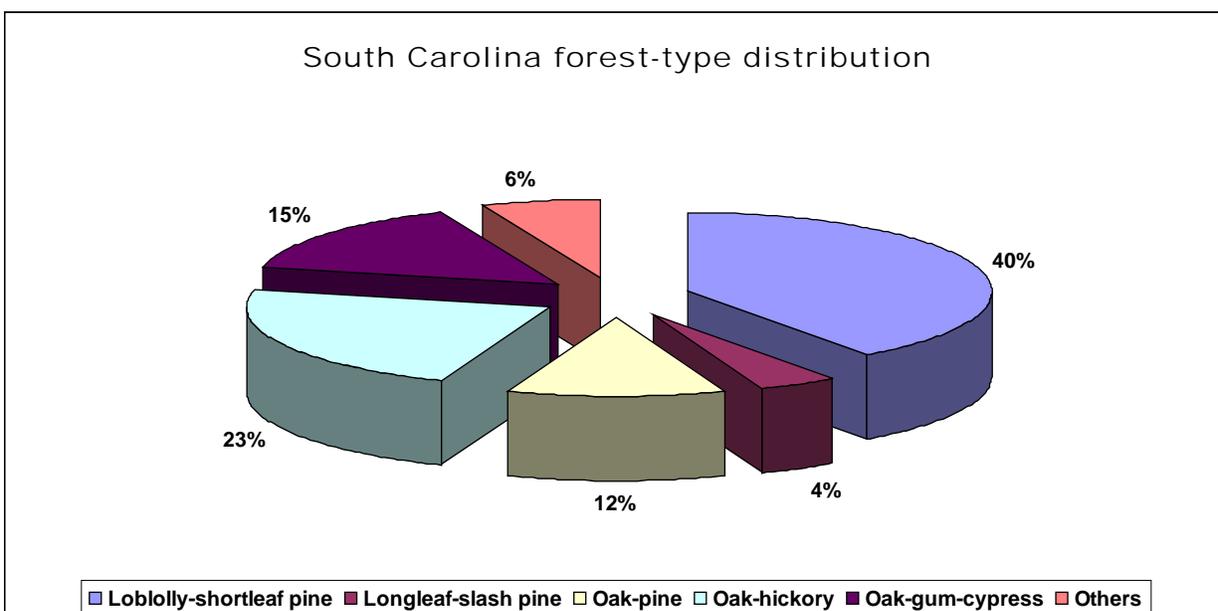
The Resource

South Carolina's forests cover 12.9 million acres, more than 67% of the state's land area. The majority of the state's forested land, some 11.4 million acres, is in nonindustrial private ownership, while approximately 613,000 acres are in national forests.



Forestry is the most important manufacturing industry in South Carolina, providing 44,708 jobs and the total economic impact of South Carolina's forest industry is \$17.45 billion annually. South Carolina's forests are also prized for their scenic beauty, supporting tourism and outdoor recreation and providing wildlife habitat from the Appalachian Mountains in the upstate to the lowcountry of the Atlantic Coastal Plain.

Major forest types in the state include oak-hickory, loblolly and shortleaf pine, mixed oak-pine, and oak-gum-cypress. Longleaf and slash pine forests, historically much more wide-ranging, now comprise 4% of the state's forests, while other minor types account for an additional 6%.



Forest Issues and Influences

-  Southern pine beetle (SPB) is South Carolina's most significant forest insect pest. In 2012, SPB activity continued, although at low levels. Several suspected SPB spots were reported statewide based on aerial surveys and from consulting foresters/landowners; however, ground-truth survey proved that these spots were caused by the *Ips* engraver beetles. One confirmed SPB spot occurred in a State Park that consisted of 40-50 trees
-  Pine engraver beetles (*Ips* sp.) displayed continued moderate activity in 2012. Because *Ips* infestations tend to be relatively small and scattered, they usually cannot be effectively controlled or salvaged, but their economic costs may approach those caused by SPB.
-  Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) was first detected in Oconee County in 2001. It has since spread in the upstate, infesting both of the native hemlock species. Current suppression activities involve a cooperative effort to rear and release predators in hope of achieving biological control of the adelgid. Chemical control of HWA in landscapes or in high value trees is practical, but major losses of these ecologically valuable trees are probable in forestry settings within a few years.
-  Annosum root rot affected timber in 15 South Carolina counties in 2012. Losses from this disease continue to be significant.
-  Sudden Oak Death surveys were continued in 2012. The surveys focused stream baiting near horticultural nurseries that had received potentially infected stock from shippers in California and Oregon, but also general forest areas considered to be at high risk. The causative agent of Sudden Oak Death, *Phytophthora ramorum*, has not been detected in these surveys in South Carolina.
-  Redbay mortality (Laurel Wilt Disease) is caused by a fungus (*Raffaelea lauricola*) which is vectored by the exotic Redbay Ambrosia Beetle (*Xyleborus glabratus*). Laurel Wilt was first reported in 2004 in Beaufort County and has continued to spread in coastal South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. In 2012, Laurel Wilt was confirmed in Georgetown County. Currently, thirteen South Carolina counties have some degree of Laurel Wilt. Effects on redbay, other potential host species, and plant communities are being studied.
-  Cogongrass has been found in eleven SC Counties (Aiken, Allendale, Anderson, Beaufort, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Greenville, Hampton, Pickens, and Williamsburg) for a total of less than 20 acres. All detected locations of Cogongrass have been and will continue to be treated. Ground surveys will continue in 2013 to locate new Cogongrass locations.
-  Drought conditions were temporarily alleviated with a wet spring, but dry conditions in the summer affected both pines and hardwoods. Numerous reports of dying and dead red oaks in the Piedmont counties were made. These trees were stressed due to droughty conditions and succumbed to *Hypoxylon* canker. As in 2011, pine trees exhibited early needle shedding during the height of the summer drought.

Forest Health Assistance in South Carolina

For further information or assistance, contact:

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