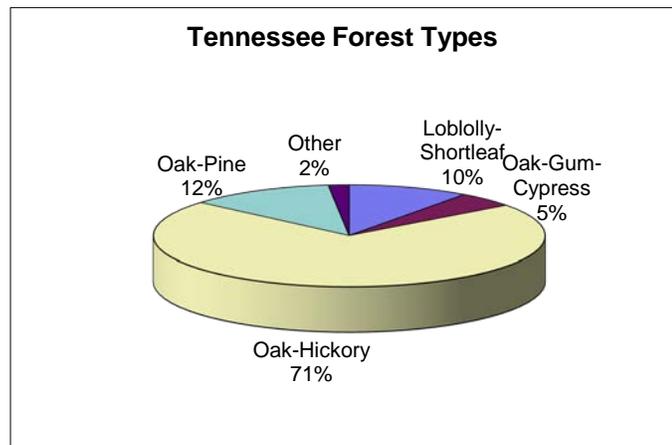


Forest Health Highlights 1998

Tennessee

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA), Division of Forestry provides forest health protection assistance to state and private land managers within the State. This program is funded cooperatively by the State and the USDA Forest Service Forest Health Protection unit.



Tennessee Forest Facts

- **Almost 1/2** of Tennessee is **forested** (more than 13.6 million acres).
- Tennessee's tree species diversity rivals the whole European continent.
- Over **85%** of forested acreage in Tennessee is **privately owned**. Small landowners comprise the largest group.
- The **Cherokee National Forest** (556,000 acres) provides recreational and wildlife benefits as well as forest products industry jobs for thousands of people.
- **Oak decline** is impacting timber and recreation in Tennessee. Oak decline results in dieback and mortality of the larger mature oaks. A complex of factors such as spring drought, frost, insect defoliation, and secondary agents such as root disease and wood boring insects contribute to the disease. The latest forest survey (1989) indicated that nearly 9% (738,600 acres) of vulnerable oak forests is affected. This disease will become more prevalent as these forests continue to mature.
- Another threat to the hardwood-dominated forests of Tennessee is the **gypsy moth**. The State works closely with the USDA Forest Service to monitor and quickly identify any accidental introductions of the gypsy moth. There have been several successful large eradication projects, up to 40,000 acres, in the past 5 years. In 1998, gypsy moth was detected at 44 separate locations in middle and east Tennessee.
- **Dogwood anthracnose** infects and destroys one of the state's most economically and ecologically important trees, the flowering dogwood. In 1998, seven additional counties were found to be infected. The disease is currently found in 59 counties in eastern half of the State. The annual plot survey of dogwood anthracnose within the infected counties found 49% of the trees dead from dogwood anthracnose. This exotic disease has now infected over 3.6 million acres of dogwood in Tennessee.
- The **southern pine beetle** is the most damaging insect pest in the State. Fourteen counties had infestations totaling 842 acres in 1998, a fourfold increase over the previous year. This insect

periodically reaches outbreak status in which thousands of infestations can develop over multi-county areas. Such a situation existed in Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Oak Ridge National Laboratory from 1992 to 1994.

The Tennessee Division of Forestry and USDA Forest Service

In spite of the relatively good health of Tennessee'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 TDA Division 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 Tennessee's forests.

Forest Health Protection contributions (dollars) to the TDA Division of Forestry Cooperative Forest Health program, cooperative pest suppression/eradication projects, and Cherokee National Forest suppression/eradication projects, 1996-99.

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
Cooperative Forest Health Program	57,596	57,396	59,879	59,879
Forest Health Monitoring	0	0	0	53,000
Cooperative suppression/eradication				
gypsy moth eradication	55,321	135,000	27,000	75,000
Cherokee National Forest				
southern pine beetle suppression	1,500	1,948	2,000	0
gypsy moth eradication	8,890	3,650	5,500	3,000

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