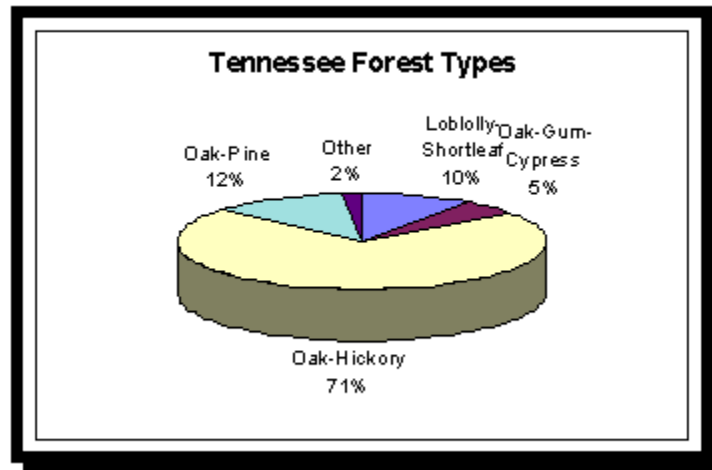


Forest Health Highlights 2000

Tennessee

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



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.
- The **southern pine beetle** is the most damaging insect pest in the State. Beetle populations increased for the third consecutive year, moving into counties where it had never been reported. Sixty-six counties showed SPB activity with 44 declared in outbreak status. Statewide there were more than 9,000 infestations – the most since 1975. Pine stands in east Tennessee were so intensely attacked that white pine and hemlock were also infested. The southern yellow pine component in several northeastern counties was reduced by over 70 percent.
- **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 and canker diseases and wood boring insects contribute to the disease. The latest forest survey (1989) indicated that nearly 9% (738,600 acres) of vulnerable oak forests are 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 2000, **ground eradication projects were conducted in three infested counties: Cumberland Scott and Sevier. Moth catches increased in Campbell and Monroe Counties; so trapping will be more intensive there in 2001.**

- **Dogwood anthracnose** infects and destroys one of the state's most economically and ecologically important trees, the flowering dogwood. The biennial 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 Tennessee Division of Forestry and the 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 Tennessee 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 Tennessee Division of Forestry Cooperative Forest Health program, cooperative pest suppression/eradication projects, and Cherokee National Forest suppression/eradication projects, 1998-2001.

		<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>
Cooperative Forest Health Program		59,879	59,879	59,879	53,736
Forest Health Monitoring		0	53,000	106,000	53,000
Cooperative suppression/eradication	gypsy moth eradication	27,000	75,000	25,000	25,000
Cherokee National Forest	southern pine beetle suppression	2,000	0	94,000	100,000
	gypsy moth eradication	5,500	3,000	0	0

For additional information, contact:

Tennessee Department of Agriculture
 Division of Forestry
 P.O. Box 40627
 Nashville, TN 37204-0627
 (615) 837-5176

USDA Forest Service
 Forest Health Protection
 200 WT Weaver Blvd.
 Asheville, NC 28804
 (828) 257-4320