

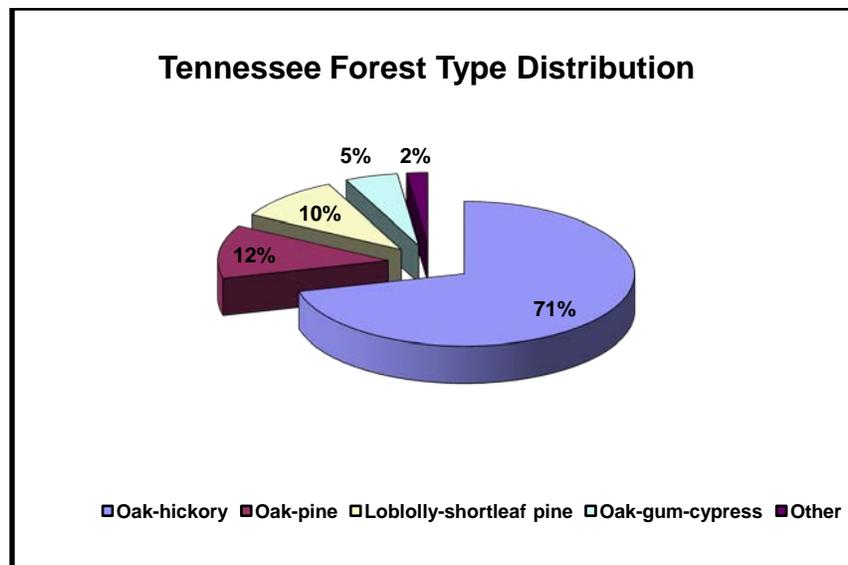
Tennessee



Forest Health Highlights 2010

The Resource

Tennessee's forests cover 14.4 million acres, more than half of the state's land area. The majority of the state's forested land, some 8.7 million acres, is in non-industrial private ownership, while approximately 556,000 acres are in national forest. Tennessee's forests are prized for their scenic beauty, supporting tourism and outdoor recreation and providing wildlife habitat from the Appalachian Mountains in the east to the Mississippi Valley in the west. The major forest type in the state is oak-hickory comprising 71% of the forested acres. Other major types include loblolly-shortleaf pine, and mixed oak-pine comprising 22%. Oak-gum-cypress and other species comprise just 7% of the state's forests.



Forest Influences and Programs

Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD) was discovered in July, 2010 for the first time within the native range of black walnut. TCD was initially found in Knox County, further surveying led to discovery of TCD in Anderson, Blount and Union Counties. The occurrence of TCD in the eastern U.S. has significant implications for the future of black walnut. Little is known about how TCD, caused by a combination of the walnut twig beetle and an associated fungus, might develop and spread in the east. Extensive surveying will occur in the summer of 2011 to learn more about the presence of TCD in Tennessee.

Emerald ash borer (EAB) was discovered in July, 2010 at two locations in East Tennessee outside of Knoxville. These were located within close proximity



of each other along I-40 in Knox and Loudon Counties. The trees known to be infested were destroyed. After extensive surveying no additional infestations were found, but there is a great probability that EAB is still in the area. EAB has devastated native ash in certain northern states. EAB surveys in Tennessee were initiated in 2005 and continued through 2010 under the National Survey Program. USDA APHIS-PPQ and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture are the major survey participants in Tennessee. More intensive surveying and trapping will be conducted in the summer of 2011.

Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) is established in East Tennessee and continues to spread westward. This tiny, non-native insect is devastating the state's hemlocks causing extensive hemlock mortality. HWA now infests 29 out of the 40 counties in Tennessee that have native hemlock stands. Biological and chemical control efforts on federal and state lands have been occurring since 2004.



Gypsy moth is a significant threat to Tennessee's forests which are predominantly hardwood. The state works closely with USDA APHIS-PPQ and the Forest Service to monitor and quickly identify introductions of the moth. Over 12,000 traps to detect gypsy moth were placed statewide in 2010. Intensive trapping efforts were conducted at 59 specific locations. These efforts resulted in discovery of infestations in Bradley, Roane, and Bledsoe Counties in East Tennessee. These locations are scheduled to be treated in 2011.

Oak decline impacts timber and recreation resources in Tennessee. It results in dieback and mortality of large, mature oaks. A complex of factors such as drought, frost, insect defoliation, and secondary agents including root and canker diseases and wood boring insects contribute to the condition. Forest surveys indicate that nearly 9% (738,000 acres) of oak forest is susceptible. Oak decline was on the rise during 2010 due to the effect of several years of drought and other stressors.

Storm damage: Ice storm damage occurred on January 29, 2010 with light to severe damage across West Tennessee, and scattered damage across the rest of the state. A series of 12 tornados occurred April 30 to May 2, 2010 primarily in Middle and West Tennessee causing considerable damage to timber in scattered locations.

Sudden oak death (SOD) is a disease with the potential of serious consequences if found in Tennessee's forests. Surveys were initiated in 2003 and continued through 2010. SOD surveys focus on comprehensive stream sampling projects involving watersheds containing several nurseries that may receive potentially infected plant stock. To date no infected sites have been identified by these surveys in Tennessee. Stream sampling will continue in Middle and East Tennessee during 2011.

Forest Health Assistance in Tennessee

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