

Tennessee



Forest Health Highlights

2013

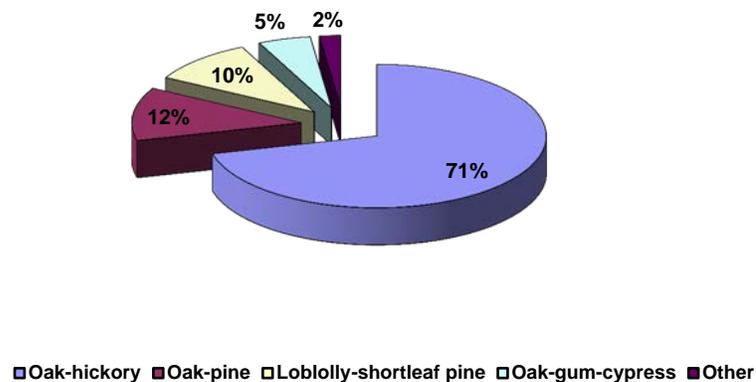
The Resource

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.



Chris Evans, River to River CWMA, Bugwood.org

Tennessee Forest Type Distribution



Forest Influences and Programs

Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD) was discovered in July, 2010 for the first time within the native range of black walnut, although in primarily urban environments in Knox County (Knoxville area). As of November 6, 2013, eight new counties have been added to the regulated area in Tennessee and two previous buffer counties have been moved into full quarantine status. Both the disease, *Geosmithia morbida*, and the walnut twig beetle were found in Morgan and Rhea Counties which will move them into the full quarantine zone. Bledsoe, Cumberland, Fentress, Hamilton, and Meigs Counties are now considered buffer regulated counties because they are adjacent to a full quarantine county. The walnut twig beetle was detected in Polk and Sequatchie Counties but the disease was not present in any branch samples from those counties. The detection of just the beetle will move those counties into the buffer regulated area. Finally Bradley County will move into the buffer regulated area because it is surrounded by other buffer regulated counties.



Tennessee
Division of Forestry



Emerald ash borer (EAB) USDA-APHIS and Tennessee Department of Agriculture deployed 1,480 traps statewide in 2013. Very few traps were installed in current quarantined counties as EAB detection budgets have significantly decreased from 2012 to 2013. Three new counties were added to the EAB quarantine in Tennessee: Jackson, Hamilton, and Scott. It is believed that Jackson and Scott County positive detections are the result of natural EAB population expansion; while the Hamilton County detection is a 'spot infestation' that is of considerable distance from the main EAB established population. Projections for 2014 EAB detection budgets are lean and Tennessee may see a reduced trapping program going forward. The Tennessee Division of Forestry conducted one aerial surveillance flight over an active EAB infestation in

Claiborne and Hancock Counties and estimated 60-90% ash mortality in some areas.

Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA): The hemlock woolly adelgid continues to move west. To date, thirty six counties have confirmed infestations that vary from severe to single tree infestations. The Tennessee Hemlock Conservation Partnership continues to organize HWA treatments and slow further movement of HWA and reduce tree mortality. The Partnership consists of the Tennessee Division of Forestry, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, National Park Service, the University of Tennessee, and The Nature Conservancy. In 2013, a total of 1,863 acres of hemlock forests in 16 different TN counties were treated for HWA.



Predator beetles continue to be released on public lands through middle and east TN and are becoming established.

Southern pine beetle (SPB) and other bark beetles: No reported outbreaks of southern pine beetle in 2013. Four counties were trapped this year with two traps each. Clerid populations are high and SPB populations are low to non-existent. However, one SPB was detected in the Cherokee National Forest but no infestation was observed. Tennessee Division of Forestry conducted one SPB aerial surveillance flight over areas of Hardeman, Chester, and McNairy Counties in west TN. No SPB infestations were observed. Very low reports of other pine bark beetle damage were reported.

Gypsy moth: Tennessee Department of Agriculture and cooperating agencies installed 7,335 gypsy moth traps statewide in 2013. Fourteen male gypsy moths were captured in seven different counties. Areas where moths were captured in 2012 were trapped at a higher intensity this year and resulted in zero trap capture. Roane County was the only county in Tennessee with an active gypsy moth infestation and, as of August 2013, is now eradicated. No current gypsy moth infestations are present in Tennessee.

Heat/Drought: The high temperatures and drought-like conditions of 2012 coupled with the wet weather in 2013 have had a noticeable effect on both urban trees and forest systems throughout Tennessee. Many reports of oak decline or related symptoms have been submitted and were common on sites with shallow rocky soils. An uptick of insect populations and presence of common leaf diseases were also reported. These trends will continue to add stress to trees and forests on poor sites and symptoms will most likely persist over the next couple of years. It has been a good year for native insects and diseases!

Outreach & Education: TDA is continuing to improve our forest health website, www.protecttnforests.org. Videos, announcements, resources, and updated forest pest information is constantly added throughout the year. TDA has also partnered with The Nature Conservancy in an urban invasive pest outreach campaign, Healthy Trees, Healthy Tennessee (<http://healthytreeshealthycities.org/cities/tennessee>). One component of this project is a new smart phone app is available for the public to download, search potential forest pests, and submit pest reports. A second product that is very popular is a quick reference tree pest identification card pictured below (front and back).

Forest Health Assistance in Tennessee

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