

# Tennessee Forest Health Highlights 2014

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Emerald ash borer: USDA-APHIS and Tennessee Department of Agriculture deployed 1,224 traps statewide in 2014. This number is 254 traps less than installed in 2013. No traps were deployed in quarantined counties. Eighteen new counties were added to the EAB quarantine in Tennessee: Fentress, Morgan, Putnam, Rhea, Sullivan, McMinn, Polk, Davidson and Washington were added due to positive identification of the insect; Macon, Clay, Pickett, Bradley, Meigs, and Overton were added to alleviate quarantine burdens on industry; Unicoi, Carter, and Johnson were added because TDA felt EAB was present in those counties despite negative trap data (Sullivan and Washington were grouped with this last type until EAB was detected later in the season). The total number of counties regulated for EAB in TN is now 39.

Projections for 2015 EAB detection budget are lean at best. EAB has now been detected in several counties in Georgia (Atlanta area) and Arkansas (southwest portion). These 'long distant spot' detections demonstrate how easily the insect can be transported many miles from an established population and how ineffective the traps are at detecting populations at low levels.

## Tennessee Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine



 Emerald Ash Borer Quarantined Areas

In Tennessee, EAB quarantines exist for 39 counties. They include Anderson, Bradley, Campbell, Carter, Claiborne, Clay, Cocke, Davidson, Blount, Fentress, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hamilton, Hancock, Hawkins, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Loudon, Macon, McMinn, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Overton, Pickett, Polk, Putnam, Rhea, Roane, Scott, Sevier, Smith, Sullivan, Unicoi, Union and Washington Counties. The following are regulated articles:

- (a) Emerald Ash Borer; firewood of all hardwood (non-coniferous) species; nursery stock, green lumber, and other material living, dead, cut, or fallen, including logs, stumps, roots, branches, mulch and composted and uncomposted chips of the genus *Fraxinus*.
- (b) Any other article, product, or means of conveyance not listed in paragraph (a) of this section may be designated as a regulated article if the Commissioner determines that it presents a risk of spreading Emerald Ash Borer and notifies the person in possession of the article, product, or means of conveyance that it is subject to these regulations.



September 30, 2014

<http://tn.gov/agriculture/regulatory/eab.html>

The University of Tennessee has been releasing EAB parasitoid wasps since 2012. To date, three different species have been released in parts of east TN totaling 111, 125 wasps. TDF Forest

Health Unit is working with UT and private landowners in Smith County to begin parasitoid wasp releases in spring 2015.

Thousand cankers disease and the walnut twig beetle: Only two counties were added to the regulated area in 2014: Greene and Marion Counties. The walnut twig beetles were detected in traps and no *Geosmithia morbida* was present. Greene and Marion Counties are now buffer regulated which brings the total number of counties regulated in TN for TCD to 28. Funding for TCD monitoring continues to decrease. It has been observed that TCD does not kill walnuts as fast as EAB kills ash trees therefore forest management strategies may differ for these two forest health issues. Ongoing research has not produced successful eradication or control strategies.

## Tennessee Thousand Cankers Disease Quarantine and Buffer Regulated Areas



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|   | <b>Thousand Cankers Disease Quarantined Areas</b><br><b>Anderson, Blount, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, Morgan, Rhea, Sevier and Union counties.</b>  |
| Citizens in these counties cannot move walnut tree products and hardwood firewood outside the quarantined counties.  |  |
|   | <b>Thousand Cankers Disease Buffer Regulated Areas</b><br><b>Bledsoe, Bradley, Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Cumberland, Fentress, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hamilton, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Monroe, Polk, Roane, Scott and Sequatchie counties.</b> |
| Citizens in buffer counties/areas can move walnut tree products and hardwood firewood within buffer counties, but not outside. Product can also be moved into a quarantine county, but not taken back out. |  |

November 21, 2014

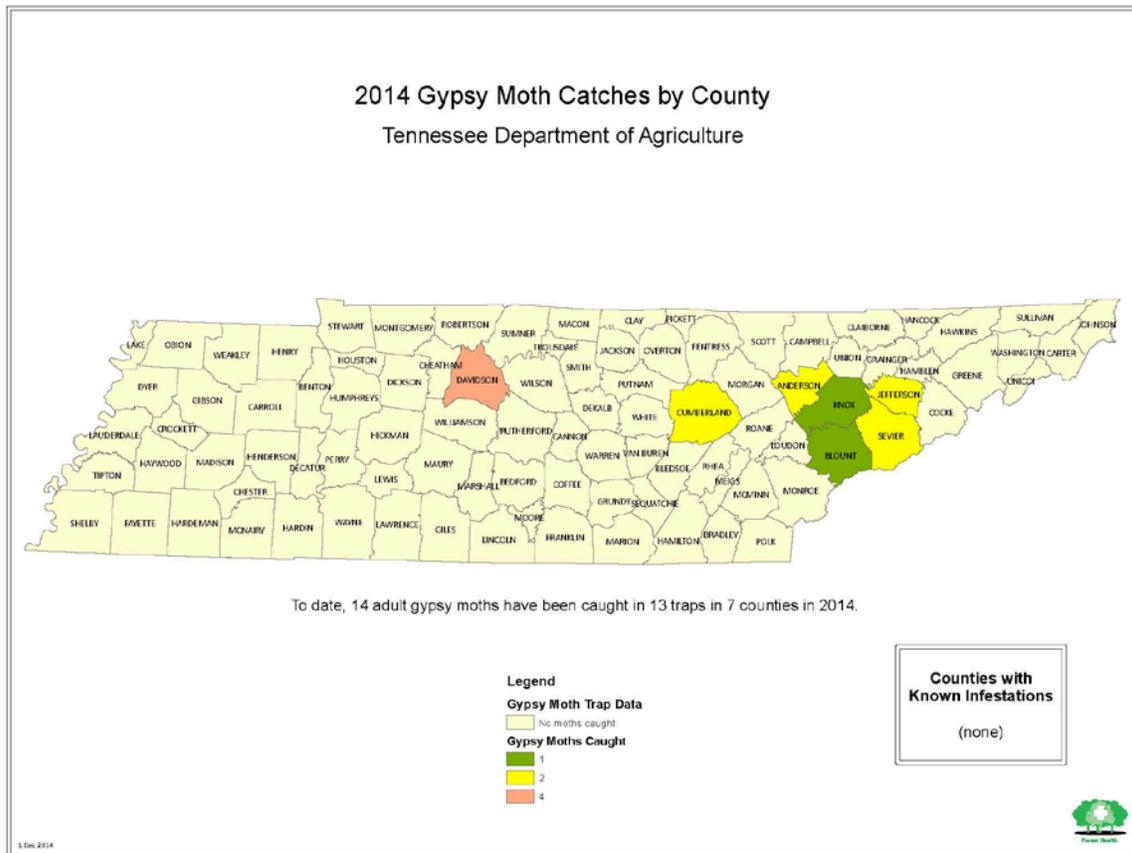
<http://tn.gov/agriculture/regulatory/tcd.html>



Southern pine beetle & other bark beetles: No outbreaks of southern pine beetle were detected in 2014. Four counties were trapped this year with two traps each. Clerid populations are high and SPB populations are low to non-existent. Very low reports of other pine bark beetle damage were reported.

Hemlock woolly adelgid: The hemlock woolly adelgid continues to move west. To date, thirty seven 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 2014, a total of 1,697 acres of hemlock forests were chemically treated for HWA. Predator beetles continue to be released on public lands through middle and east TN and are becoming established. Since 2009, over 250,000 beetles have been released in 11 counties.

Gypsy moth: Tennessee Department of Agriculture and cooperating agencies installed 7,446 gypsy moth traps statewide in 2014. 14 male gypsy moths were captured in seven counties. Areas where moths were captured in 2013 were trapped at a higher intensity this year. No current gypsy moth infestations are present in Tennessee.



Forest Health Trends: The unusually cold winter of 2013-2014 had both positive and negative impacts on the forest. Several reports were issued noting up to 90% mortality of hemlock woolly adelgid in higher elevation locations across TN. Whereas this is seen as a positive impact to the invasive insect itself, predator beetle rearing laboratories are scrambling to find food to raise this year's crop of beetles.

Other effects of the cold temperatures were noticed later in the spring. Several occurrences of Leyland cypress branch damage were documented as well as leaf deformation on a variety of hardwood trees. The latter may indicate that there was an unusual cold snap concurrent with bud break which would have a deforming effect on leaf development. The cooler, wet spring was conducive for many different leaf diseases and several types of anthracnose. And as expected, oak decline in TN continues to be a hot topic. The need for more hardwood pulp mills and poor quality stem markets couldn't be stronger!

Outreach & Education: TDA is continuing to improve our forest health website, [www.protecttnforests.org](http://www.protecttnforests.org). Videos, announcements, resources, and updated forest pest information are constantly added throughout the year. TDF has received \$10,000 to perform a major overhaul to the site. One main objective of this overhaul is to move to a content management system which would make the site more conducive to blogs and social media while increasing capacity for public pest reporting system.

Tennessee is the lead state for the regional Don't Move Firewood outreach campaign. Nine states (TN, KY, NC, SC, GA, MS, OK, AL, LA) are included in this grant which will continue to educate the public on the risks of moving firewood. The \$700,000 awarded to this effort will fund radio spots on local stations, a wide variety of print material, outreach handouts, billboards, educational events, social media campaigns and much more.

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