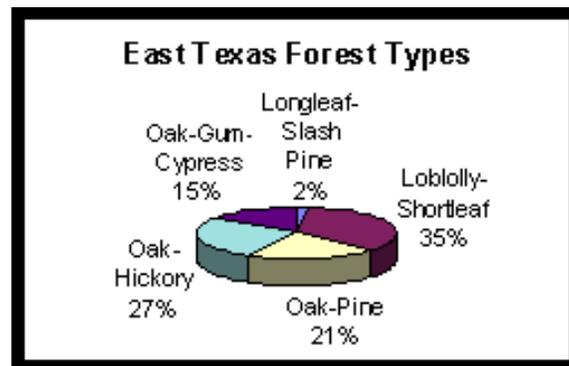


# Forest Health Highlights 1997

## Texas

The Texas Forest Service 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.



### Texas Forest Facts

- Over **50%** of the eastern section of Texas is **forested** (more than 11.7 million acres).
- Almost **90%** of the forested acreage in Texas is **privately owned**.
- The **National Forests in Texas** (576,800 acres) provide recreational and wildlife benefits as well as forest products and jobs for thousands of people.
- The **southern pine beetle** (SPB) is Texas' most important forest insect pest. Historically this state has had the most severe SPB problems in the South. However, since 1994, SPB populations have been very low. In 1997 there were about 800 infestations statewide, an increase from 1996. A trapping system has been developed by the Texas Forest Service and implemented in 12 southern states to annually forecast SPB infestation trends. Suppression projects continue both with the state and on national forests.
- The Texas Forest Service and Forest Health Protection are evaluating **new SPB control techniques** for use in areas where salvage logging is restricted or not permitted.
- Personnel from the Texas Forest Service, National Forests in Texas, and Forest Health Protection staffs have worked together to develop some unique remote sensing applications to assist in the detection and monitoring of forest pest problems. One of the applications involves the use of **aerial videography** to acquire images of project areas that can readily be viewed and analyzed.
- **Oak wilt** is currently affecting the live oak in 55 counties in central Texas and 6 counties in west Texas. Although this resource has little commercial product use, values for shade, wildlife and livestock, scenic beauty, etc. are extremely high, particularly in urban areas like Austin. A cooperatively-funded suppression project will be in its 11<sup>th</sup> year during 1998, although at reduced funding levels. Using matching project funds, 1.96 million feet of trenches have been installed to suppress 1,200 oak wilt infection centers. Also, over 7,000 high-value trees have been treated with fungicide and more than 2,200 red oak trees have been removed to prevent spread of the disease by known insect vectors.

## The Texas Forest Service and USDA Forest Service

In spite of the relatively good health of Texas' forests, a variety of insects and diseases 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 Texas Forest Service 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 forests in Texas.

***Forest Health Protection contributions (dollars) to the Texas Forest Service Cooperative Forest Health Program, cooperative pest suppression projects, and National Forests in Texas pest suppression projects, 1995-98.***

	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
<b>Cooperative Forest Health Program</b>	77,384	80,984	90,984	97,525
<b>Cooperative Suppression</b>				
southern pine beetle	0	0	75,000	40,000
oak wilt	499,744	429,692	431,200	400,000
<b>National Forests in Texas</b>				
southern pine beetle	0	25,189	104,779	531,000

**For additional information, contact:**

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