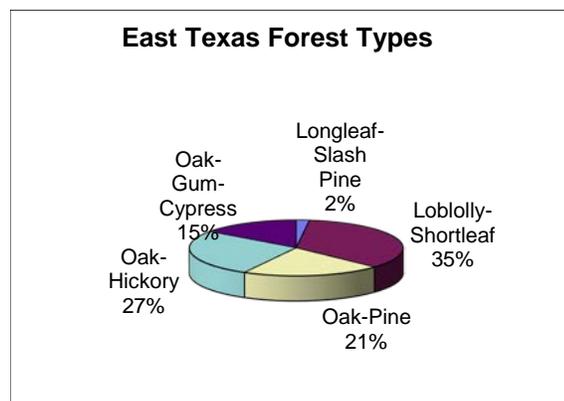


The Resource

Texas' forests cover 14.6 million acres, more than half of the eastern section of the state where the climate supports trees. The majority of the state's forested land, some 10.7 million acres, is in nonindustrial private ownership, while approximately 576,000 acres are in national forests. Texas' forests are prized for their scenic beauty, supporting tourism and outdoor recreation and providing wildlife habitat throughout eastern Texas.

Major forest types in Texas include oak-hickory, loblolly and shortleaf pine, mixed oak-pine, and oak-gum-cypress. Longleaf and slash pine account for only 2% of the forest.



Forest health monitoring (FHM) activities are cooperative efforts between the USDA Forest Service and the Texas Forest Service. The FHM program in Texas includes periodic measurement of fixed plots as well as regular aerial and ground surveys to detect forest damage.

Special Issues

Key issues which State and federal programs are addressing cooperatively include:

- Sustainable management of private forest lands
- Protection and development of urban and community forest resources
- Increasing participation by underserved citizens in forestry programs

Forest Influences

Southern pine beetle (SPB) is the most important forest insect pest in Texas. Historically, the most severe SPB problems in the South have occurred in Texas. However, since 1994 SPB populations in the state have been very low. A trapping survey developed by the Texas Forest Service is now used in 12 southern states to forecast annual SPB population trends. No SPB infestations were reported in the state in 2006. Texas has developed a comprehensive SPB Prevention Program that includes cost-share incentives and a landowner education program.

The Texas leaf-cutting ant continues to defoliate young pines in East Texas. Baiting with Volcano® has reduced overall impacts from the ant.

The Texas Forest Service developed detection survey methodologies for exotic Formosan termites in 2003, and these were continued in 2006.

Oak wilt continues to devastate more than 60 counties in Texas, mostly between Dallas and San Antonio. Urban, suburban and rural oaks are affected. Live oak is a premier shade tree species in the region that is highly valued for its beauty, shade, and wildlife benefits; many prized live oaks have been killed by the disease. In 2006, the Texas Forest Service completed its nineteenth year of cooperative suppression of the disease, assisting local landowners and providing public information.

Sudden Oak Death surveys were initiated in Texas in 2004 and continued in 2006. The surveys focused on the perimeters of horticultural nurseries that received potentially infected stock from shippers in California. No infected sites were found in the state.

Weather impacts on Mississippi's forests were prominent in 2006, particularly from summer drought and latent effects from Hurricane Rita. Pine mortality increased significantly, aggravated by *Ips* and black turpentine beetle attacks on weakened trees. Mortality was abundant but widely scattered.

Fire produced extensive damage to forests and rangeland in northeastern and north central Texas in late 2005, continuing into 2006.

Forest Health Assistance in Texas

For further information or assistance, contact:

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Forest Pest management
PO Box 310
Lufkin, TX 75902-0310
(936) 639-8170**

**USDA Forest Service
Forest Health Protection
2500 Shreveport Highway
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