

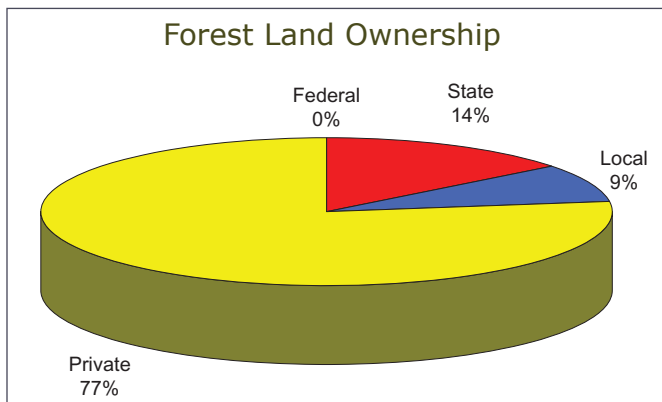
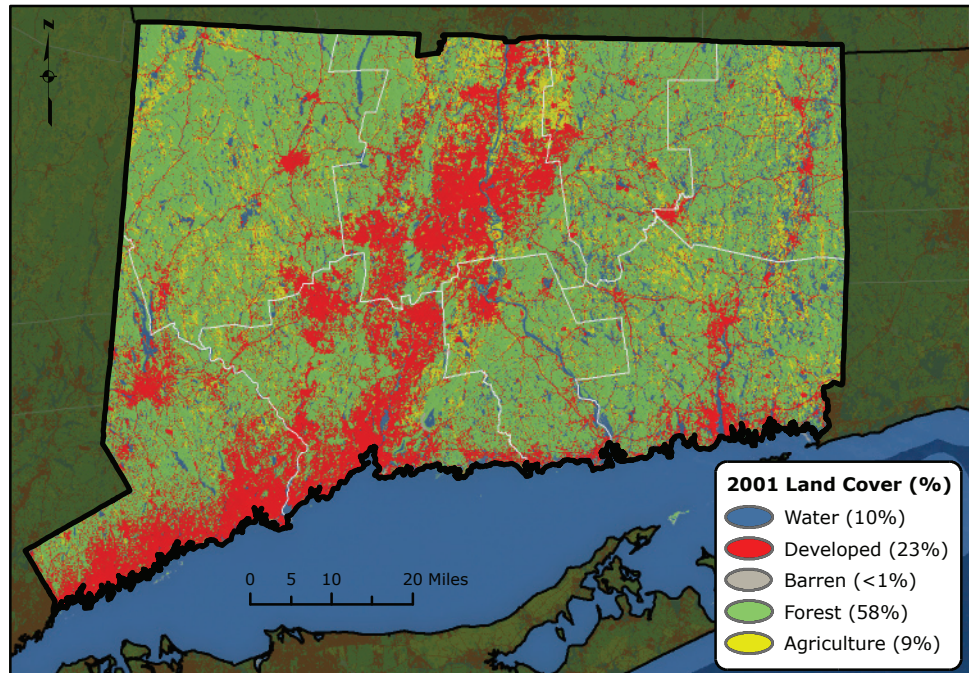
2008

Forest Health CONNECTICUT *highlights*



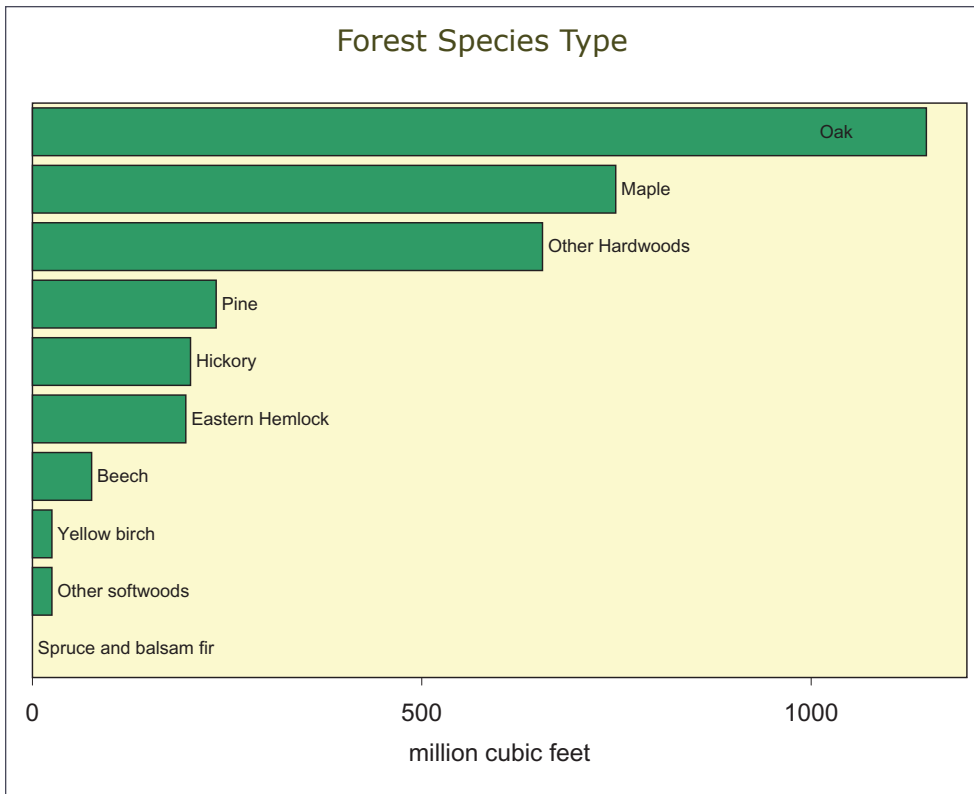
Forest Resource Summary

Connecticut's forests are 77 percent privately owned, with the remainder of the lands in State or local town ownership. These forests provide clean water and air, wildlife habitat, and sources of recreation, timber, and fuel. Forested parks and shade trees aesthetically enhance communities as well as provide energy savings, habitat for wildlife, and recreation opportunities. The latest Connecticut forest inventory estimates that 58 percent of the State is forested, approximately 1.8 million acres. The forest resource is made up of a variety of forest types—mostly oak, maples, and other hardwoods—along with pine and eastern hemlock.



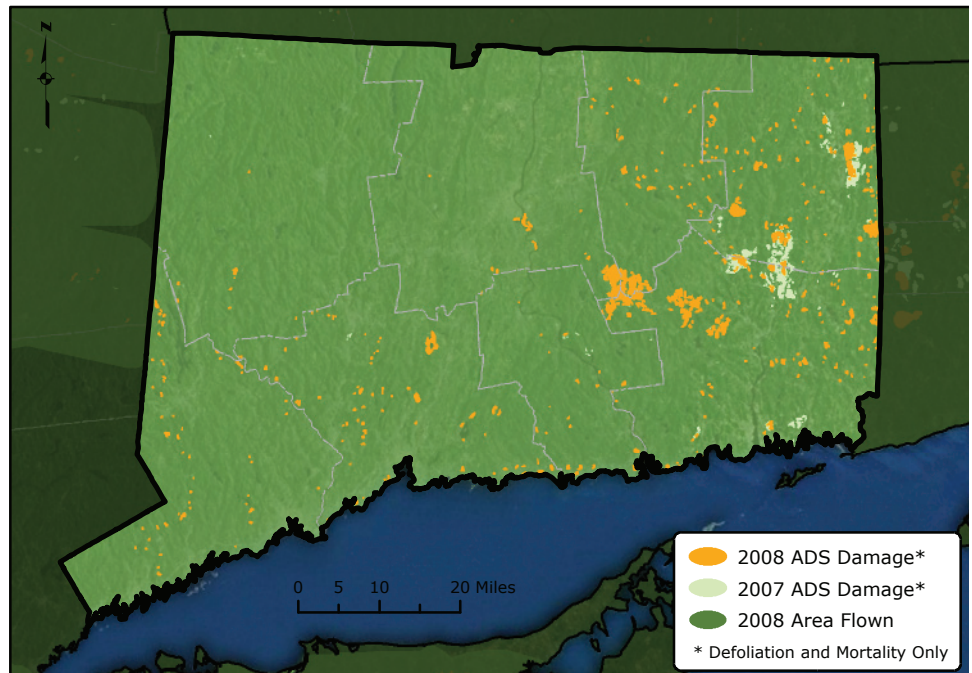
Forest Health Programs in the Northeast

State forestry agencies work in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service to monitor forest conditions and trends in their State and respond to pest outbreaks to protect the forest resource.



Aerial Surveys

Aerial surveys and ground surveys are conducted annually throughout the State. Recently the largest portion of the activity observed has been the result of forest insects and foliage diseases. The 2008 aerial survey identified over 42,000 acres of damage, mostly due to defoliation from the gypsy moth, orange-striped oakworm, and forest tent caterpillar. Several forest diseases were also evident, including anthracnose and, most significantly, Septoria leaf spot.



This map delineates aerial detection survey (ADS) results for Connecticut in 2007 and 2008.

Forest Damage

For most of 2008, Connecticut received above-average levels of rainfall, resulting in higher levels of foliar diseases on most hardwood trees, such as **anthracnose** on maples and sycamores, and **Septoria leaf spot** on maples. The combined effect of these diseases was early browning and defoliation, resulting in subdued autumn color in severely-affected areas of the State. Damage caused by Septoria leaf spot was extensive enough to be seen and evaluated during aerial survey, totaling 15,325 acres. The increased rainfall also meant that *Entomophaga maimaiga*, the fungus that keeps **gypsy moth** populations in check, was very effective in infecting and killing the larvae of this defoliating insect. Defoliation due to gypsy moth feeding was moderate, with only 13,627 acres of notable damage.

Defoliation from the **forest tent caterpillar** increased from 2007, with 2,400 acres showing damage. **Orange-striped oakworm** defoliated nearly 6,000 acres, a significant decrease from recent years.

Several exotic invasive forest pests have been surveyed for and not found, including **Asian longhorned beetle**, **emerald ash borer**, and **Sirex wood wasp**. Given the close proximity of the Asian longhorned beetle in Worcester, MA, Connecticut has increased surveys along the northern border of the State and has set up an e-mail address to report possible sightings (CAES.StateEntomologist@po.state.ct.us).

The health of hemlock stands in Connecticut continues to show general recovery from **hemlock woolly adelgid**, with large areas of the northern half of the State showing excellent new growth. In general, damage due to **elongate hemlock scale** continues to increase, especially on true firs and spruce, possibly due to mild winter conditions. **Circular scale** is found sporadically.

Beech bark disease is endemic statewide and is causing mortality on stressed trees. Ash trees continue to suffer from an ash decline complex, even though the incidence of **ash rust** was low. **Butternut canker** is widespread in the butternut population, and is caused by several fungi in the genus *Phomopsis*. Another pathogen, *Melanconis*, is also widespread.

Due to the recent isolated finding of **oak wilt** near Albany, NY, other possible oak wilt sites were examined in Connecticut. No *Ceratocystis* was isolated, but the trees will be monitored in the spring and summer of 2009 and samples collected if warranted.

Two watersheds were baited with Rhododendron leaves from April through September to survey for the presence of *Phytophthora ramorum*, the causal agent of **Ramorum blight**. This disease, which is causing significant oak mortality along the coast in the West, has been transported nationwide through infected nursery stock. Although other species of *Phytophthora* were detected, *P. ramorum* was not found.



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February 2009

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