

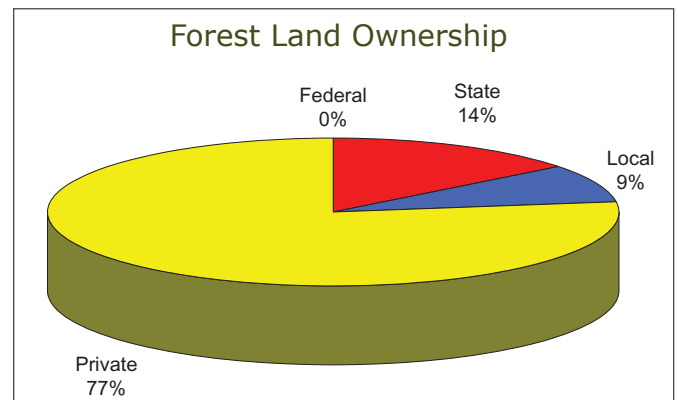
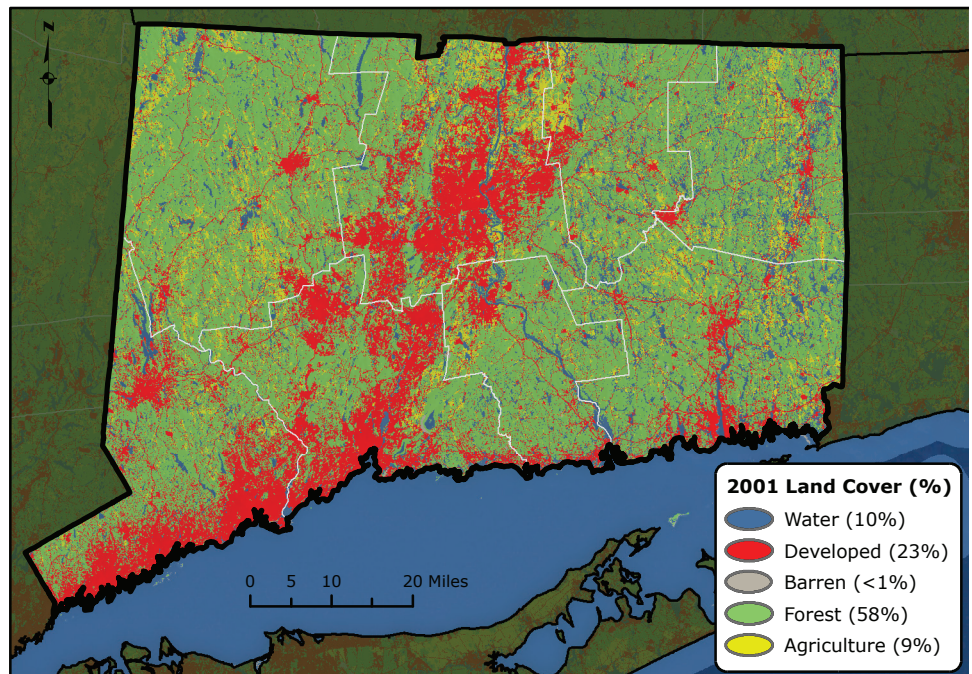
2010 Forest Health

CONNECTICUT *highlights*



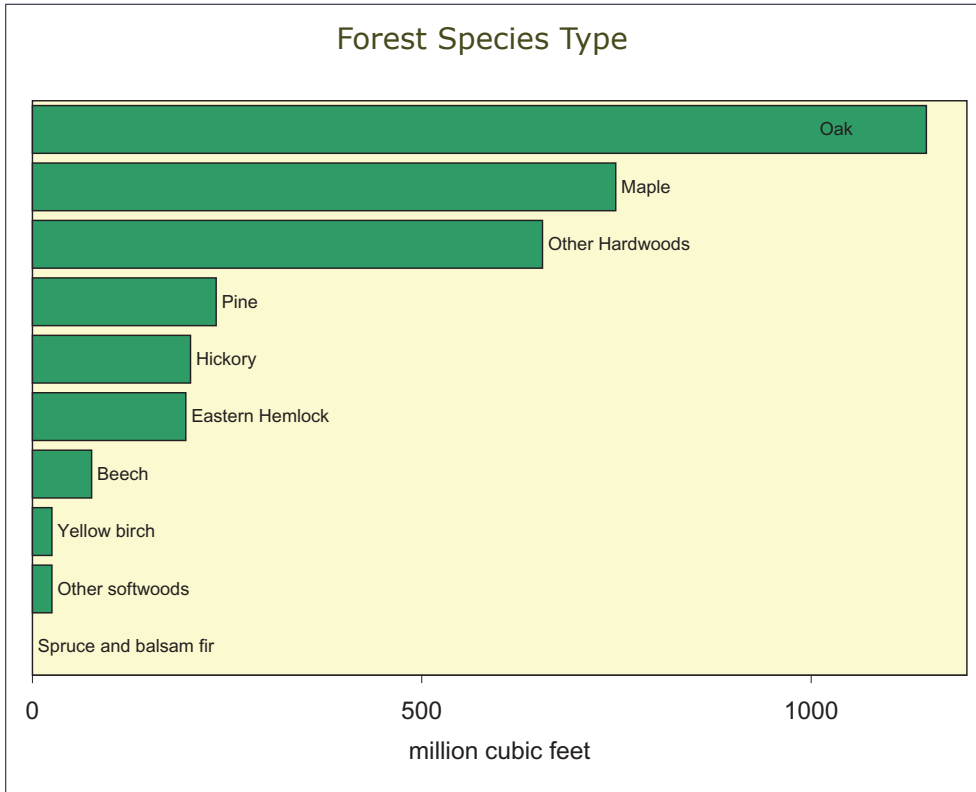
Forest Resource Summary

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.



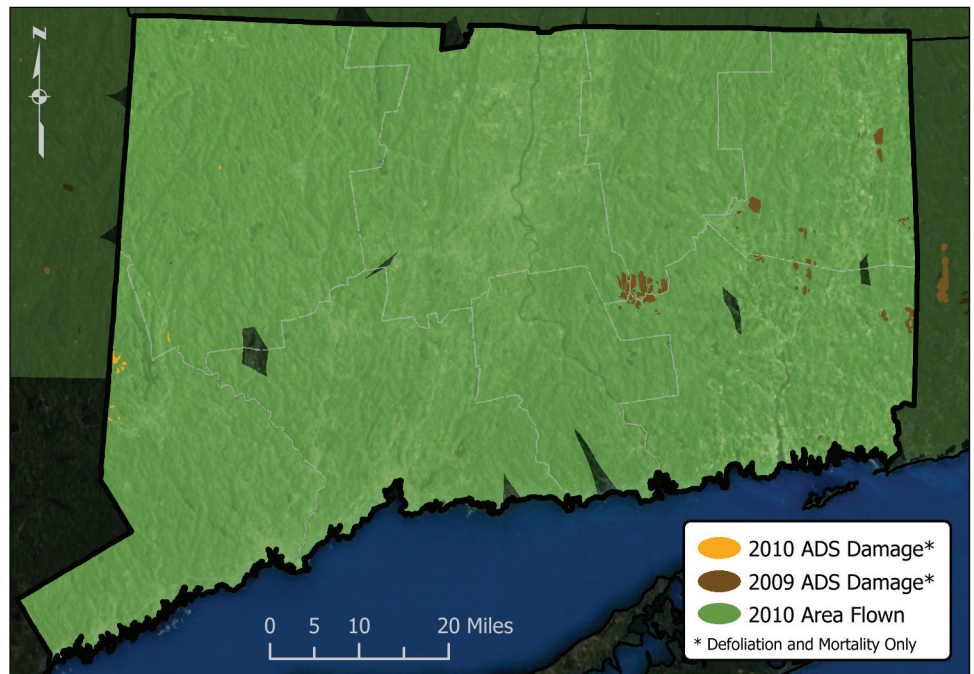
Forest Health Programs in the Northeast

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

In Connecticut, only about 3,700 acres of damage were mapped in 2010. Over 1,000 acres were reported as having trees with broken main stems, which resulted from severe windstorm events. Foliage discoloration was reported on about 1,800 acres, mainly on hemlock woolly adelgid-infested trees.



This map delineates aerial detection survey (ADS) results for Connecticut in 2009 and 2010.

Forest Damage

In 2010, Connecticut received below-average levels of rainfall, except for a few heavy storms in March. Many areas of southeastern Fairfield County were also affected by strong damaging winds in March. Mature trees in residential areas were toppled, resulting in landscape disturbance and structural damage. Over 1,100 acres in Fairfield, Hartford, and Litchfield Counties were affected by this weather event. In addition, several locations in Litchfield County were severely affected by ice storms in the winter of 2009-2010. Breakage and tree damage occurred primarily at higher elevations, such as hilltops and ridges.

For the first time in many years, there was no observable damage due to **gypsy moth** in 2010. Very few viable egg masses were found during egg mass surveys in the winter of 2009-2010. No defoliation due to larval feeding of **forest tent caterpillar** or **orange-striped oakworm** was recorded in 2010. In Fairfield and Litchfield Counties, over 715 acres were affected by **locust leafminer**, and about 25 acres in Litchfield County were affected by **larch casebearer**.

The following invasive pests were surveyed for and have not been found in Connecticut: **Asian longhorned beetle**, **emerald ash borer**, and **light brown apple moth**. However, **Sirex wood wasp**, an invasive pest of pine, was detected for the first time in Connecticut in Fairfield County. The closest infestation of the emerald ash borer is in eastern New York, and there is heightened concern over the spread of this pest into Connecticut.

Interest in Asian longhorned beetle is also very high because this insect is found in New York City, on Long Island, and most recently in Worcester, MA. The Experiment Station has fielded over 175 calls of possible reports of the beetle. Most of the reports have been determined to be either the white spotted sawyer or western conifer seed bug. To report



*Severe storm damage occurred in the early spring.
(Photo: USDA Forest Service)*



Image of EAB galleries. (Photo: USDA Forest Service)

possible sightings of any invasive pest, contact CAES.StateEntomologist@ct.gov.

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 also found sporadically infesting hemlock trees.

Beech bark disease is endemic statewide and causing mortality on stressed trees. Ash trees continue to suffer from ash decline complex, even though the incidence of **ash rust** was low. The **butternut canker** pathogen *Sirococcus clavigignenti-juglandacearum* has been found only twice in Connecticut. In addition, two pure butternut trees have been identified, using a DNA test, and all the rest of the trees sampled have been Japanese walnuts or hybrids. Another pathogen, *Melanconis*, which causes a similar canker, has been identified across the State. Trees possibly symptomatic of **oak wilt** have been monitored, with no isolation of the *Ceratocystis* fungus. These trees will be monitored for at least one additional year and samples will be taken if warranted. One watershed's stream was baited from April through September for *Phytophthora ramorum*, the causal agent of **Ramorum blight and dieback** (sudden oak death). Although other species of *Phytophthora* were detected, *P. ramorum* was not found.



Asian longhorned beetle. Donald Duerr, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org



Oak wilt leaf damage. Paul A. Mistretta, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org



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