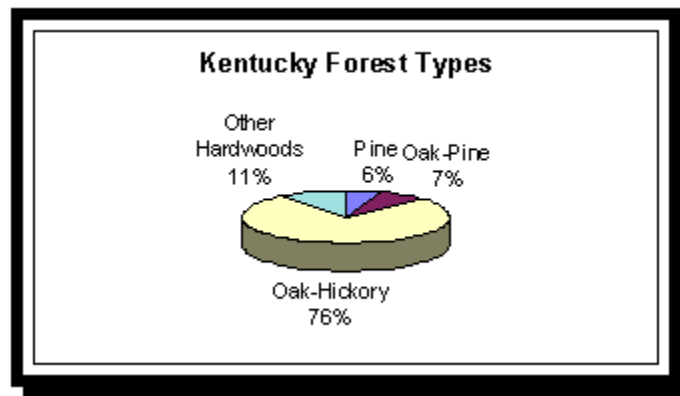


Forest Health Highlights 2003

Kentucky

The Resource

Kentucky's forests cover more than 12.6 million acres, almost half of the state's land area. The majority of the state's forested land, some 11.2 million acres, is in nonindustrial private ownership, while approximately 699,000 acres are in national forest. Forestry is an important industry in Kentucky, providing 29,400 jobs and producing \$468 million in annual revenue. Kentucky's forests are also prized for their scenic beauty, supporting tourism and outdoor recreation and providing wildlife habitat from the Appalachian Mountains in the east to the Mississippi Valley in the west. Major forest types in the state include oak-hickory, pine, and mixed oak-pine. Other hardwoods comprise 11% of the state's forests.



Forest health monitoring (FHM) activities are cooperative efforts between the USDA Forest Service and the Kentucky Division of Forestry. The FHM program in Kentucky 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 Kentucky's most significant forest insect pest. In 2003, SPB activity was minimal, in large part due to host depletion in the eastern part of the state.

Gypsy Moth, a serious pest of hardwood forests, threatens Kentucky from the north and east. The Kentucky Division of Forestry and USDA Forest Service work closely together to monitor and quickly respond to outbreaks of the moth through a statewide early warning network of survey traps. In 2003, KDOF conducted trapping on a total of 6,458,000 acres, but only 16 male moths were captured.

Oak defoliators were unusually active in 2003. Fall cankerworm and eastern oak looper were the primary causal agents.

Dogwood anthracnose is a disease of cool, moist areas in the higher elevation forests of eastern and central Kentucky. It is currently causing significant mortality to native dogwoods in 63 counties in the state. An anthracnose infection of black walnut in forest and landscape settings across the state was also reported in 2003.

Cedar heart rot, a white fungal rot affecting all age classes of eastern redcedar, was recognized as a major factor affecting lumber values in central and southeastern Kentucky in 2003. The identity of the fungal agent causing this disease is being investigated.

Forest Health Assistance in Kentucky

For further information or assistance, contact:

Kentucky Division of Forestry

627 Comanche Trail
Frankfort, KY 40601-1798
(502) 564-4496

USDA Forest Service

Forest Health Protection
200 WT Weaver Blvd.
Asheville, NC 28804
(828) 257-4320