

Kentucky

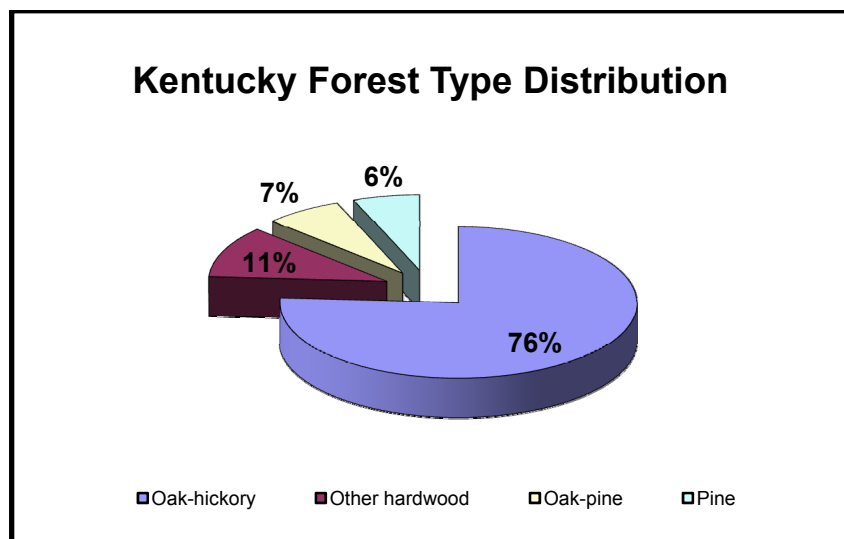


Forest Health Highlights 2009

The Resource



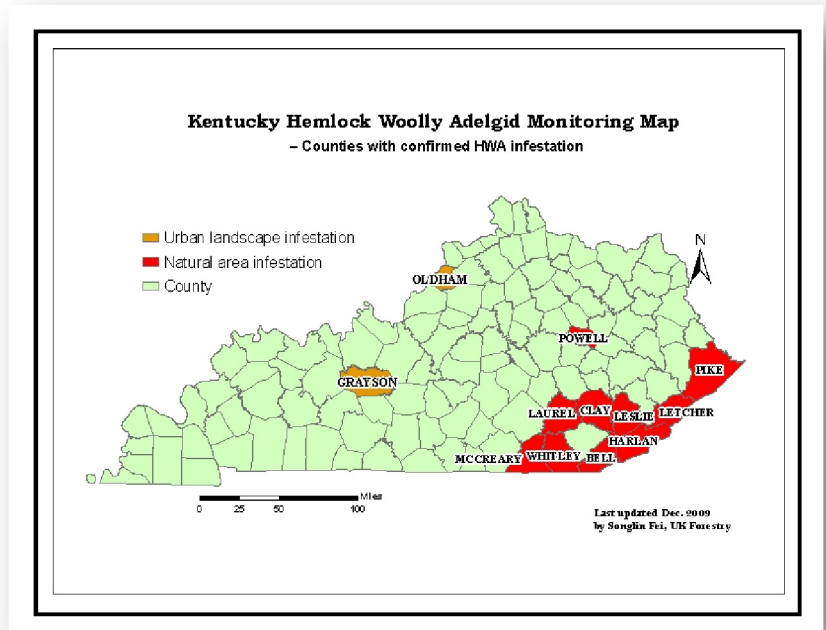
Kentucky's forests cover more than 12.6 million acres, almost half of the state's land area. The majority of the state's forested land, some 11.2 million acres, is in non-industrial private ownership, while approximately 699,000 acres are in national forest. Forestry is an important industry in Kentucky, 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 Influences and Programs

Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA):

Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) surveys continued in 2009. Infestations occur in ten counties in southeastern Kentucky. The counties include Powell, Pike, Letcher, Leslie, Clay, Laurel, Harlan, Bell, Whitley and McCreary. Infestations occur on private, state and federal lands. There is a noticeable spread of HWA, although the rate of spread has not been examined. Four state agencies including the Division of Forestry (DOF), State Nature Preserves Commission, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and the Division of Water have partnered and are treating on selected state lands.



Emerald ash borer (EAB):

The emerald ash borer was discovered on May 18 in Shelby and Jessamine Counties in central Kentucky. Since that date, a total of 11 counties have been confirmed from specimens taken from infested trees and traps. Confirmed counties include: Campbell, Fayette, Franklin, Greenup, Henry, Jefferson, Jessamine, Kenton, Oldham, Owen and Shelby. All states surrounding Kentucky, except Tennessee, have some level of EAB infestation. The north central region of Kentucky has 20 counties under quarantine that restricts the movement of ash material. Greenup County is not within the 20 county regulated area but lies in the northeastern corner of the state. This county, along with Henry County (within the regulated area), are the most recently confirmed counties. These two counties were confirmed on October 23rd after adult beetles were found on traps. On November 18th, the Kentucky Forest Health Task Force will meet to discuss modification of the existing quarantine to include Greenup Co. The EAB infestation in Kentucky seems to have occurred within the last 3 – 5 years. Tree mortality is present in both urban and rural areas. Some tree mortality seems to be as much as 2 – 3 years old. Introduction into Kentucky was from apparent firewood movement as well as natural spread from nearby states (Ohio and Indiana). Kentucky state parks have banned all non-certified firewood regardless of source location. The University of Kentucky, Department of Entomology is now solely responsible for EAB monitoring within Kentucky. This year, approximately 5500 EAB traps were placed in Kentucky. Placement occurred in the counties along and north of I-64, along the Ohio River in western Kentucky and some scattered trapping south of I-64. The coordinates of all confirmation sites as well as positive traps are available from the University of Kentucky, Department of Entomology. The state contact is Joe Collins (Joe.Collins@uky.edu).

Sirex woodwasp:

The DOF surveyed for *Sirex* wood wasp in each of its nine districts in 2009. *Sirex noctilio* was not found in any of the traps. We found one specimen of *Tremex columba* but no other specimens of Siricidae. Fifty 12-cup Lindgren funnel traps were placed in pine areas throughout the state. However, the traps were concentrated in the northeastern, southeastern and southwestern parts of the state. The sites included private, state and federally owned lands. The traps were baited with 70% alpha-pinene - 30% beta-pinene lures. The traps were placed in June and taken down at the end of September. GPS coordinates are available upon request. Also, the University of Kentucky, through the CAPS program, placed four Lindgren funnel traps at ports. No *Sirex noctilio* were found.

Gypsy moth:

2009 gypsy moth captures in Kentucky included only males. The trapping program is administered through the University of Kentucky, Department of Entomology. No females or egg masses were found in 2009.

Southern pine beetle (SPB) & other bark/ambrosia beetles:

SPB activity was virtually absent in Kentucky in 2009, in large part due to host depletion in the eastern part of the state during epidemic conditions which occurred in prior years. A single spot was reported on the Daniel Boone National Forest, but none on state and private lands. Kentucky is thinning residual pine stands on State forest land in an effort to prevent future losses from this insect. *Ips* beetle mortality occurred on 25-30 acres on Pennyryle State Forest last year. The area was flagged and determined to be spreading, which resulted in the area being included in a timber sale. No trapping was conducted this year. The DOF will trap in 2010 for bark and ambrosia beetles as well as other borers. *Sirex* traps revealed occasional *Xylosandrus crassiusculus*, but the insect samples other than *Sirex* have yet to be fully processed and identified

Invasive Exotic Plants:

Few things have been noted for invasive exotic plants in 2009. Tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) has been reported as steadily increasing in northeastern Kentucky, although no delineation has been made of its increase or rate of spread. Similar information has been reported for Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) although no delineation has been made of its increase or rate of spread. Bush honeysuckle continues to be the most significant invasive exotic plant in central Kentucky. Other species that have significant impacts across the state are winter creeper, Japanese honeysuckle and Oriental bittersweet.

Ice Storm Damage:

In January, a major ice storm had significant impacts on western Kentucky. More time will be needed in order to provide an accurate assessment of forest damage. Few trees were unaffected by the large amount of ice that accumulated. It is likely that pest and disease incidence will increase due to the resulting stress. Additionally, because so much damage occurred, pest and disease diagnosis may be difficult.

Forest Health Assistance in Kentucky

<p style="text-align: center;"> Kentucky Division of Forestry 627 Comanche Trail Frankfort, KY 40601 502-564-4496 http://www.nrstate.ky.us/nrepc/dnr/forestry/dnr dof.html </p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> USDA Forest Service Southern Region, State & Private Forestry Forest Health Protection 200 W.T. Weaver Road Asheville, NC 28804 828-257-4320 http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/foresthealth/ </p>
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