

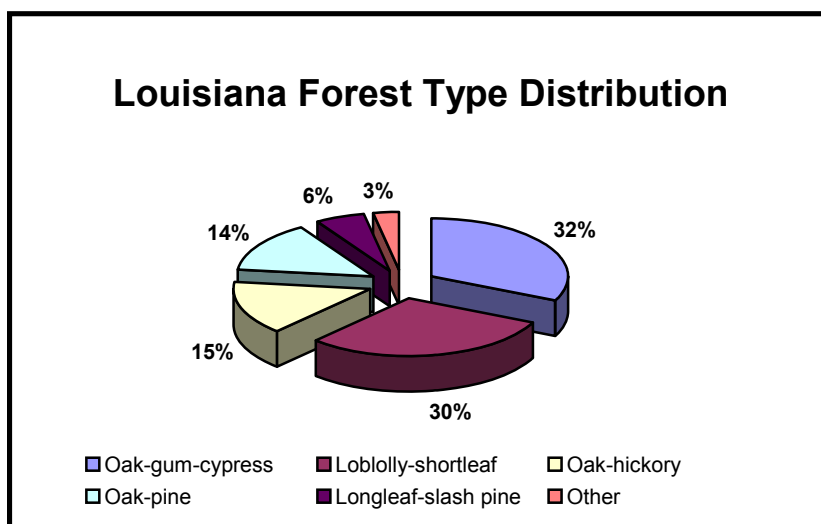
# Louisiana



## Forest Health Highlights 2008

### The Resource

Louisiana's forests cover 13.8 million acres, nearly half of the state's land area. The majority of the state's forested land, some 10 million acres, is in non-industrial private ownership, while approximately 603,500 acres are in national forests. Louisiana's forests are prized for their scenic beauty, supporting tourism and outdoor recreation and providing wildlife habitat throughout the state. Major forest types in Louisiana include oak-hickory, loblolly and shortleaf pine, longleaf and slash pine, mixed oak-pine, and oak-gum-cypress. Other minor types account for approximately 3% of the forest.

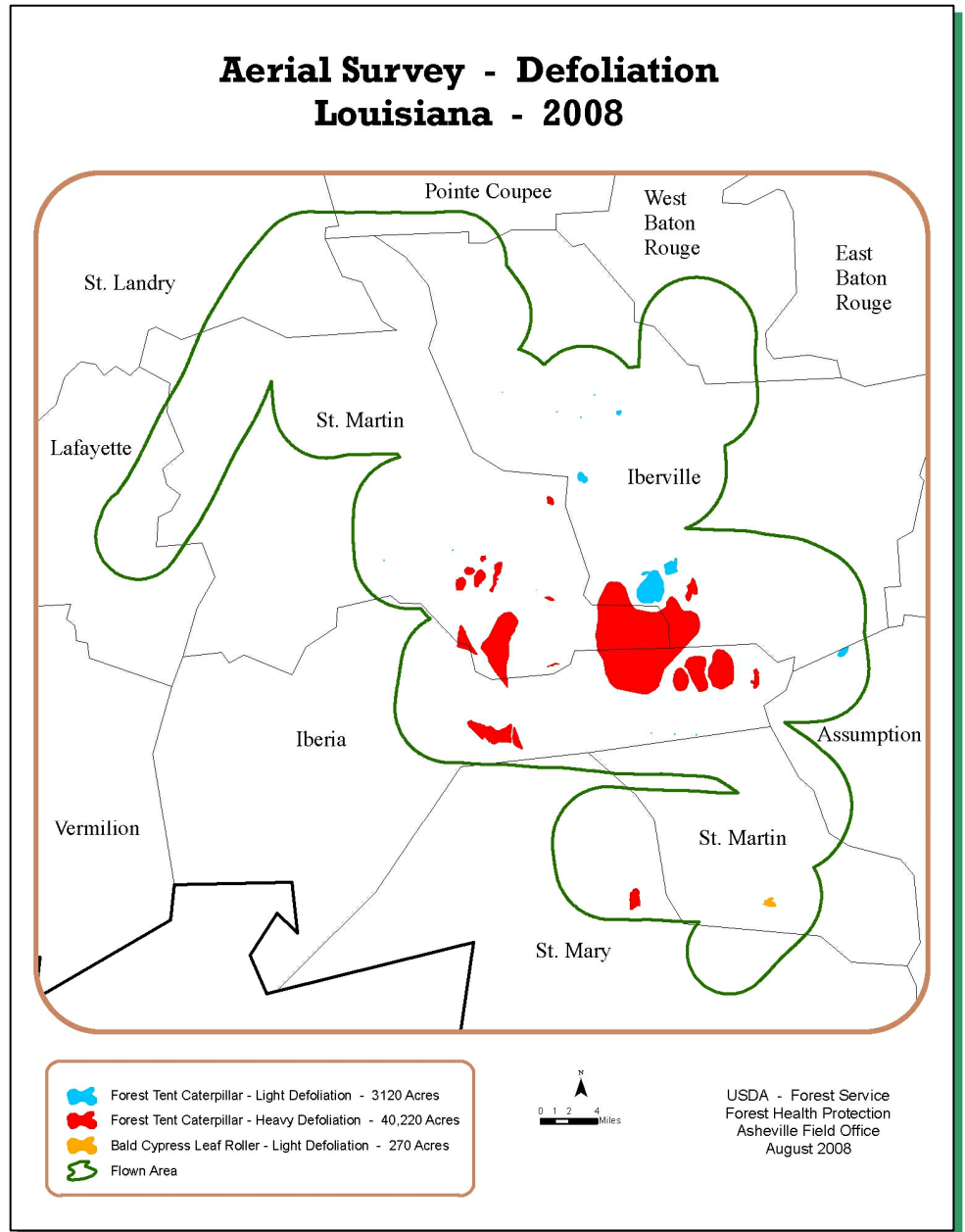


### Forest Influences and Programs

**Southern pine beetle (SPB)** is Louisiana's most significant forest insect pest. However, SPB activity in the state has been insignificant in recent years, a trend that has lasted for about 10 years. Only one confirmed spot was detected in 2008. No serious population buildup is in sight. Louisiana is currently offering cost-share incentives to landowners for SPB prevention practices such as thinning stands to reduce the hazard to SPB infestation.

**Pine engraver beetles (*Ips* spp.) and black turpentine beetle** remain at relatively normal levels after the rapid buildup in 2006 following the 2005 hurricanes. Because *Ips* infestations tend to be relatively small and scattered, they usually cannot be effectively controlled or salvaged, but their economic costs may exceed those caused by SPB.

**Forest tent caterpillar** defoliation (heavy;  $\geq 50\%$ ) was detected this spring on 40,220 acres of forested wetlands affecting primarily tupelo gum mostly within the Atchafalaya Basin of south central Louisiana. Light defoliation ( $< 50\%$ ) occurred on 3120 acres near the same vicinity.



**Baldecypress leafroller** defoliation (heavy;  $\geq 50\%$ ) was detected on only 270 acres of mixed Baldecypress stands in St. Martin Parish in the southern end of the Atchafalaya Basin.

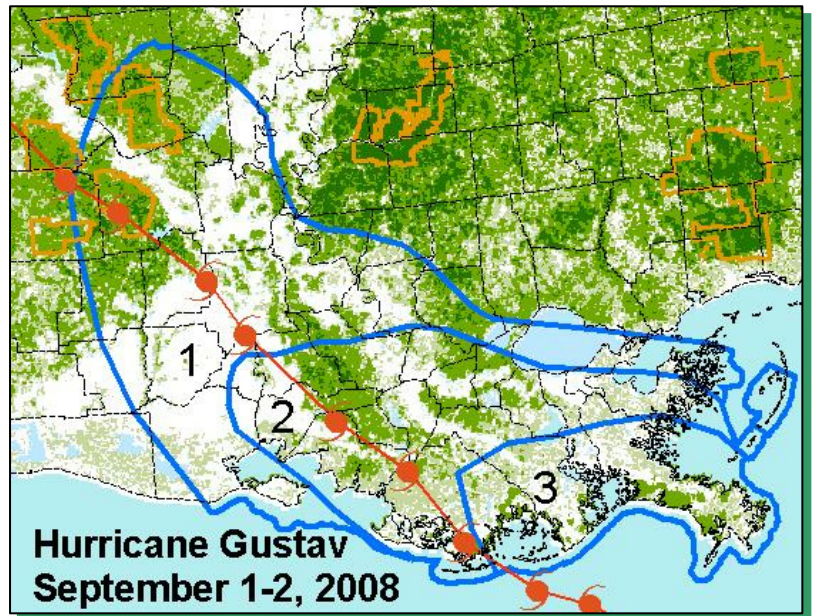
**Cogon grass** was found established on 29 sites averaging about 1/2 acre in size. Most were located in the southeast portion of the state. Four other spots were found in central and western Louisiana. All were treated with herbicide with at least one application. Because of the resilience of Cogon grass, several applications over time are necessary to control its spread.



Charles T. Bryson, USDA Agriculture Research Service, bugwood.org

**Hail** caused heavy defoliation to pines and hardwoods on about 1700 acres of intermingled pasture and forestland west of Hammond in the southeast part of the state. Another 7000 acres received light to moderate damage. Almost all of the heavily defoliated pines died as a result of direct hail damage or girdling by attracted pine engraver beetles. Most of the hardwoods that received heavy defoliation survived with abundant epicormic branching.

**Hurricane Gustav** came through the middle of Louisiana in 2008 and in between the paths of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita of 2005. The storm damaged roughly \$77 million worth of hardwoods, about \$8.7 million in baldcypress and over \$6 million in pines and other softwoods. The accompanying map outlines the levels of wind damage to forests occurring as far north as mid-state.



### Forest Health Assistance in Louisiana

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 Woodworth, LA 71485  
 318-487-5172  
 ccobb@ldaf.state.la.us  
<http://www.ldaf.state.la.us/portal/>

USDA Forest Service  
 Southern Region, State & Private Forestry  
 Forest Health Protection  
 2500 Shreveport Hwy.  
 Pineville, LA 71360  
 318-473-7286  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/foresthealth/>