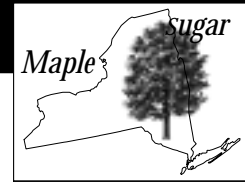


# 2000 Forest Health Highlights

## New York



### The Resource

New York's forests provide a recreational base for millions of New Yorkers and others visiting the state's scenic regions. Forests are also productive in timber, providing employment to 2 percent of the workforce. The manufacture of wood products provides \$2.4 billion to the state's economy annually.

### Special Issues

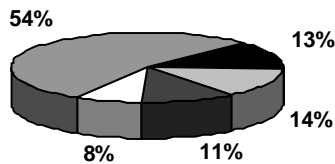
Three years after the **ice storm** of 1998, the forests of northern New York continue to be impacted. Damage is still noticeable in Lewis, Jefferson, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, and Essex Counties. Federal appropriations provided grants and, in partnership with DEC, technical assistance, to over 40 ice-damaged communities in the North Country. Remaining trees were inventoried, management plans prepared, and workshops given in tree planting and care. Trees are being planted and replaced with improved techniques, and more consideration given to species and site. Better planning, monitoring, and a more pro-active approach, should promote an improvement in our urban forest health. Federally funded research projects studying the effects of the storm on the forest ecosystem have completed their second year of data collection.

•62% of the state is forested  
(18,641,300 acres)

#### Out of the forested area:

- 82.6 % timberland
- 17.4 % non commercial or reserved forestland  
(data unpublished)

#### Major Forest Types:



- w hite/red pine/hemlock (13%)
- oak/hickory (14%)
- other (11%)
- elm/ash/red maple (8%)
- northern hardwoods (54%)

Exotic pests are still a major concern within the state. The most recent introduction is the **Asian Longhorned Beetle**, which was discovered in Brooklyn and on Long Island during the summer of 1996. Since then, other infestations were discovered in Queens, Manhattan, Bayside, and Islip. A quarantine is in effect encompassing all known infested areas. Many of the trees in these areas appear to have been infested for several years. Hardwoods are the preferred hosts of this insect, especially maples. In a continued effort to eradicate the insect, surveys continue around the perimeter of the known infestation to identify newly infested trees for removal. Tree planting continues in an attempt to provide greenery in neighborhoods as the infested trees are cut down. An infestation has also been discovered in the city of Chicago and, like the New York infestation, is thought to have originated on solid wood packing materials from China. The US Department of Agriculture has put restrictions on the use of untreated wood as packing material or dunnage, in an attempt to curtail further introductions of the beetle. Inspections are conducted nationwide for the beetle, and other exotic pests, at ports engaged in international trade.



Another introduced pest, the **hemlock woolly adelgid**, continues to cause damage to native forest and ornamental eastern hemlock trees. New infestations found in 2000 indicate that the pest is continuing to travel northward in New York. Damage is most severe in areas that have been infested for several years. In some areas a majority of the trees are infested and many of those are in declining health. In 1999 and 2000, New York cooperated with the USDA Forest Service to introduce a predatory beetle in selected stands in an effort to control the adelgid population. New York State has released a total of 17,500 predator beetles at a total of 6 sites across the hemlock woolly adelgid infested counties. The release sites and the beetles will be monitored and evaluated for the next 3 years.

## Special Issues cont.

In the early 1990's, The **European common pine shoot beetle** was discovered infesting pine plantations around the Great Lakes. The beetle is primarily a problem in pine Christmas tree plantations. First found in western New York in 1993, the insect now occurs across most of the state. A total of 32 counties are now known to be infested, with Delaware, Otsego, and St. Lawrence counties being added in 2000. The areas where the insect has been found are under a Federal quarantine in an attempt to reduce spread.

The incidence of the **European gypsy moth** in New York has been relatively low in recent years, partially due to a fungus, *Entomophaga maimaga*, which attacks the larvae and helps to keep populations low. However, 27,000 acres were defoliated by gypsy moth in the state in 2000. The most notable damages were found in Ulster county, where defoliated areas of 13000, 7500, 4500, and 1600 acres were detected by aerial survey.

Research related to the **pine false webworm**, which has caused significant defoliation in northern New York since 1991, is continuing in eastern white pine plantations. The research emphasis is on finding management techniques to protect trees.

### Other Issues

The exotic disease **dogwood anthracnose** was discovered in Erie county in 2000, bringing the total number of New York counties known to be infected to 30. The disease causes damage to flowering dogwood in both forested and urban/ornamental locations.

The incidence of **peach bark beetle** on black cherry increased noticeably in 2000. Heavy gummosis caused by the activity of this bark-borer can result in defect such as gum pockets which decrease the commercial value of the wood. Because of the commercial importance of black cherry in New York, research is needed to determine the extent of damage caused by the insect and possible management techniques to curtail its impact.

Some red pines, eastern white pines and Atlantic white-cedars still show effects of the **1999 drought**. Discoloration and dieback/decline were the most commonly reported symptoms, however in one case mortality of Atlantic white-cedar was attributed to the drought. In many case drought damage was correlated with shallow soils or otherwise poor sites for the damaged species. Conversely, the unusually wet summer of 2000 has led to an increase in the occurrence of foliar diseases of hardwoods, including **tar spot** of maple.

## Stewardship

Among the several NY DEC programs that contribute to forest health improvement, the stewardship program has the potential to reach a large number of forest landowners. All forest management plans prepared under the stewardship program include a forest protection component. The planning process helps alert forest landowners to potential and existing forest health conditions and procedures to protect forest resources. This program also continues to help landowners recover from the 1998 ice storm.

## Regional Surveys

The year 2000 marked the second year of New York's participation in the **National Forest Health Monitoring Program** which began in New England in 1990. Permanent plots have been established statewide that will be visited on a rotating annual basis to assess the condition of the forest resource.

The **North American Maple Project** was initiated with Canada in 1988 to look at change in sugar maple tree condition. There are several states in the Northeast involved including New York, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, and Massachusetts. Overall, sugar maple located within the sample sites are in good condition.

## For More Information

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