

2010

Forest Health

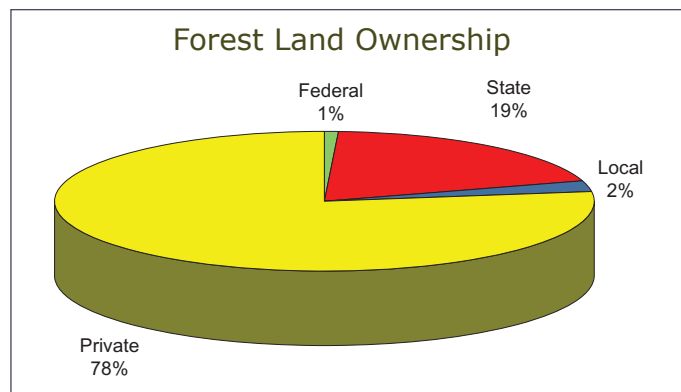
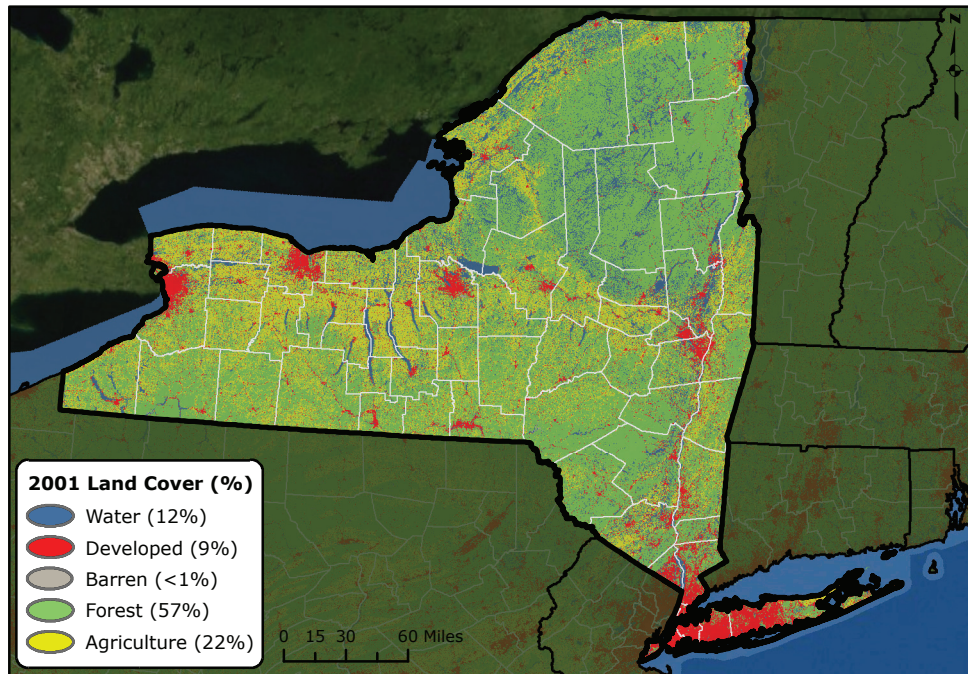
NEW YORK

highlights



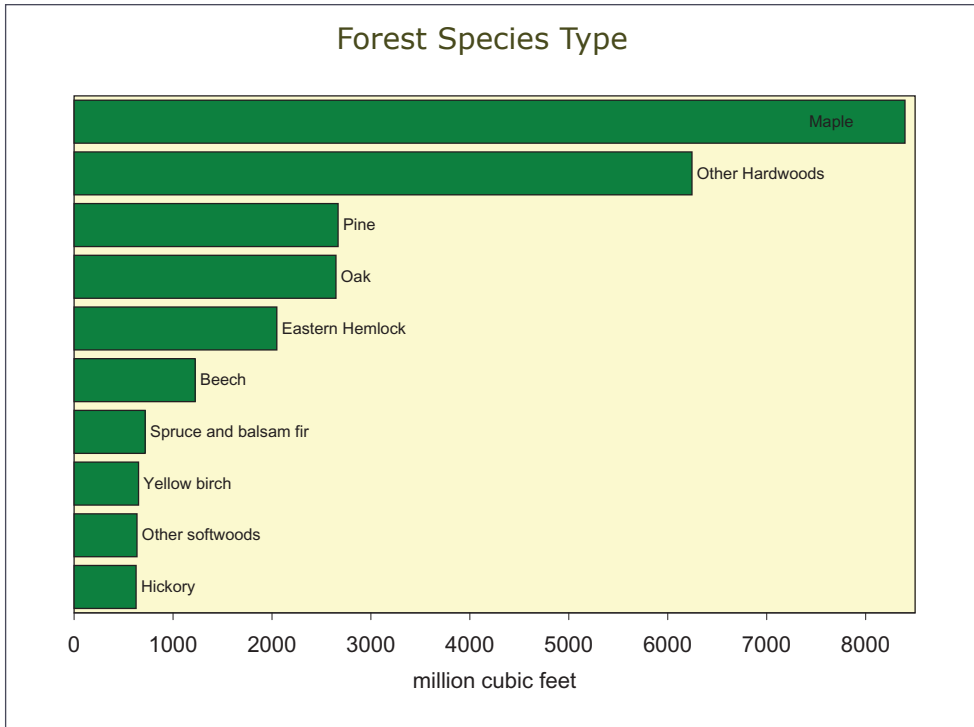
Forest Resource Summary

New York's forests are 78 percent privately owned. The State owns 19 percent of the land, which mostly encompasses the Adirondack Park. These forest lands provide a recreational base for millions of residents and others visiting the State's scenic regions. New York's forests also produce timber, providing employment to 2 percent of the State's workforce. The manufacture of wood products provides \$2.4 billion annually to the State's economy. The latest New York forest inventory estimates that 57 percent of the State is forested—approximately 18.7 million acres—with 22 percent in agriculture. The forest resource is made up of a variety of forest types, mostly maple and other hardwoods, along with pine, oak, and eastern hemlock.



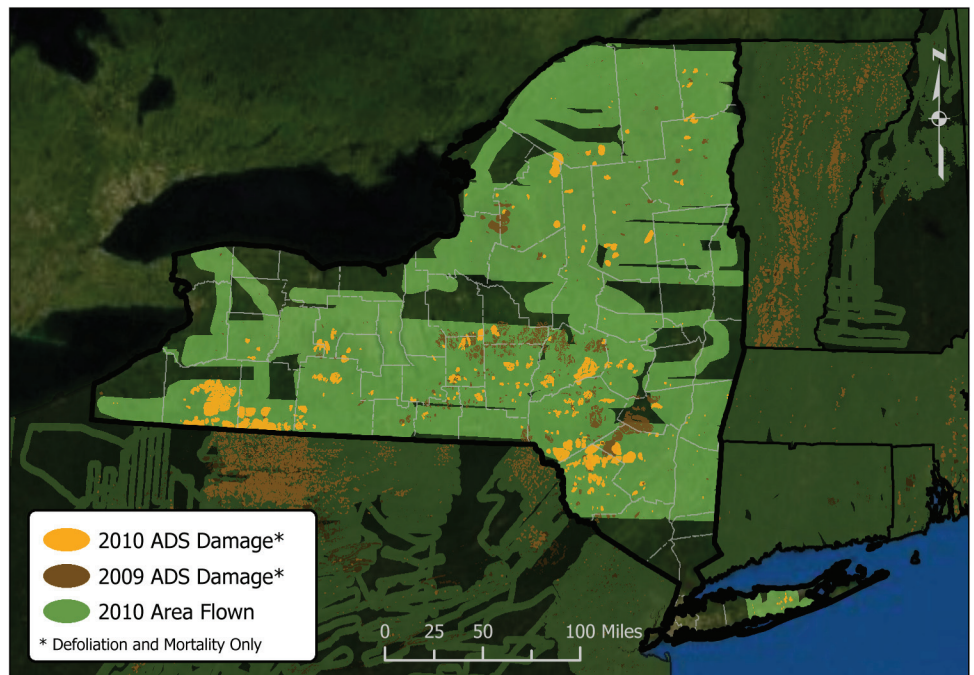
Forest Health Programs in the Northeast

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 New York, over 1.5 million acres of damage were mapped, mostly attributed to discoloration and defoliation with lesser amounts of mortality. Almost all of the damage was caused by late spring frost and forest tent caterpillar defoliation. Additional damage was observed from other hardwood defoliators and hemlock woolly adelgid.



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

Forest Damage

Forest tent caterpillar was again the most significant defoliator in New York in 2010. Approximately 297,000 acres were confirmed as defoliated, with damage occurring in the Catskills and west throughout the central part of the State. Heavy defoliation occurred in the Allegany region of western New York.

There were no reports of **gypsy moth** in 2010, and no gypsy moth defoliation was observed during the annual aerial survey. In addition, no significant defoliation by **spruce budworm** was observed and moth trap counts were generally low. **Winter moth** is present on eastern Long Island; however, there were no new reports of damage from this insect in 2010.

Locust leafminer caused patches of moderate discoloration and defoliation on black locust over portions of eastern New York, especially the lower to mid-Hudson River Valley along I-87 and Route 9. Damage has been starting earlier in the season each year for the past few years.

There are several invasive insects of concern in New York. Currently, the most significant invasive insect species is the **emerald ash borer**. In 2010, this insect was positively confirmed in six new counties: Monroe, Genesee, Livingston, Steuben, Ulster, and Greene. Emerald ash borers in all infested counties, with the exception of Greene, were found in purple prism trap catches. Delimitation of the Ulster County infestation led to the discovery of the Greene County infested site. Research activities and efforts to slow ash mortality (SLAM) are being conducted in all infested areas in New York.



Emerald ash borer galleries (U.S. Forest Service photo)

Cooperative efforts to eradicate **Asian longhorned beetle** from the quarantined areas in New York City and Long Island are ongoing, but progress is slow. No new infestations were found in the area in 2010.

Hemlock woolly adelgid continues to cause damage and mortality to native forest and ornamental eastern hemlock trees. The New York State Department of Agriculture and

Markets removed infested trees in Rensselaer County in the city of Troy. New hemlock woolly adelgid infestations were found in Tioga, Steuben, and Broome Counties, and some new towns in the Finger Lakes region. Damage is most severe in areas that have been infested for several years in the Catskills and southern part of the State. In some areas, a majority of the trees are infested, and many of those are in declining health or dead.

Elongate hemlock scale is common in approximately the same range as hemlock woolly adelgid and is often, but not always, found in the same stands. Damage from the scale is hard to separate from damage by the adelgid at times, but both have caused significant decline and mortality of hemlocks.

It is assumed that much of the State is likely infested with **Sirex woodwasp**, although no new affected counties were detected in New York in 2010. Within the known infestation, much of the worst damage is found on State-owned pine plantations, many of which are overstocked and in declining health. There were no new counties infested with *Tomicus piniperda*, the **common European pine shoot beetle**, in 2010.

Beech bark disease can be found readily throughout New York State, and symptoms of **Dutch elm disease** are conspicuous statewide. Many of the trees now succumbing to Dutch elm disease are mature trees in urban and suburban settings that survived the initial wave of the disease throughout the region.

Butternut canker is common in New York wherever butternut is found. It is rare to see a symptom-free butternut tree. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has begun archiving locations of healthy butternut when found or reported. **Dogwood anthracnose** continues

to affect understory and ornamental flowering dogwood across the State. This disease was not reported from any new areas in 2010.

Oak wilt was detected in New York for the first time in 2008 in Schenectady County in the town of Glenville, where at least six oaks had been killed. In 2009, 73 infested or likely to become infested trees were destroyed. No new infested trees have been found in the infested area, and no new infested sites have been found elsewhere in the State.



Oak wilt eradication (New York DEC photo)

No new surveys were conducted for *Phytophthora ramorum*, the causal agent of **sudden oak death**, known to cause oak mortality in California and Oregon. This pathogen was recently transported on nursery stock to the Eastern United States.

While surveying for emerald ash borer, personnel recorded a variety of symptoms of **ash decline** in many stands. Native ash borers were often present in these stands, and a few instances of ash yellows were found in these sites as well. No surveys for **bacterial leaf scorch** were conducted in 2010. There were previous positive finds in Westchester County, Rockland County, and in Brooklyn in Kings County.

A severe late **frost** occurred in May 2010 that caused discoloration, leaf deformities, and tree mortality. Moderate to heavy damage occurred in many areas across the State. Approximately 1.1 million acres of damage were observed.

Giant hogweed, a noxious invasive plant that causes a severe skin reaction, is present in 35 counties in the State. There are approximately 800 known populations of the plant, with the largest and densest of these found in the western half of the State. This was the third year of manual eradication and the second year of herbicide use. While more hogweed sites are being found, mostly due to better outreach and education, eradication efforts are having a noticeable effect on the size of the affected areas.



Giant hogweed eradication (New York DEC photo)

In 2010, eradication work began on the **kudzu** infestation in Rockland in southeastern New York. Vine removal and root cutting were performed by hand on about half of the site. Plans for spring 2011 include more hand work and the application of herbicide.



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