WEST VIRGINIA - 2021

Forest Health Highlights

The Resource

The West Virginia landscape is dominated by more than 11.8 million acres of forest. Due in large part to its varied topography, the forest is a rich diversity of oaks, hickories, spruce, pines, and the WV State Tree—sugar maple. Ninety percent of all forests in West Virginia are privately owned, but there are 8 State Forests, 36 State Parks, 109 Wildlife Management Areas, 2 National Forests, 4 National Park Areas, and 2 National Wildlife Refuges which all provide public enjoyment.

FOREST STEWARDSHIP

The Forest Management Program is administered by the West Virginia Division of Forestry. The intent of the program is to help private, nonindustrial forest landowners improve their forests by managing them in a sound, scientific manner. Within this program, the Forest Stewardship Program offers a forest management plan written by a professional forester based on the landowner's objectives. Other programs, EQIP and CREP, provide financial assistance for recreation, forest improvement, soil and water protection, wetlands protection, fisheries habitat enhancement, wildlife habitat enhancement, tree planting, and improvement of forest roads.

Special Issues

Gypsy Moth Programs

The objectives of the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) Gypsy Moth Program are to continue to minimize the adverse impact on forest resources, preserve aesthetic values, protect people from the annoyance and health problems that can occur when in contact with large numbers of gypsy moth caterpillars, and slow the spread of gypsy moth by reducing populations on the advancing front.

GYPSY MOTH QUARANTINE

West Virginia currently has 44 counties regulated and considered generally infested by gypsy moth. The WVDA regulates the movement of articles out of these counties into non quarantined counties or states. There were no new counties quarantined in 2021.

GYPSY MOTH REGULATORY

There were no regulatory insecticide treatments in West Virginia in 2021.

Staff visited 92 sites to investigate the movement of articles capable of transporting the gypsy moth into non infested areas. Areas visited included Christmas tree sales lots, plant nurseries, mobile home dealers, campgrounds, firewood producers, interstate weigh stations, log yards, sawmills and relative trade shows.

GYPSY MOTH POPULATION

West Virginia's gypsy moth population in 2021 is low in most areas of the state. The extremely wet weather of the past two springs continue to keep the population low.

GYPSY MOTH COOPERATIVE STATE COUNTY LANDOWNER PROGRAM (CSCL)

WVDA Staff are currently responding to landowner requests and completing surveys on forested lands in West Virginia to determine areas at risk for gypsy moth defoliation and/or mortality in the spring of 2022. Staff are currently using 1/40-acre plot surveys to determine areas at risk and plan to have surveys completed by late December.

The WVDA did not conduct any treatments in the Cooperative State County Landowner (CSCL) Program in 2021.

The CSCL program covered three quarters of the state in 2021.

GYPSY MOTH STS (Insecticide Treatments)

There were no larval insecticide treatments in the West Virginia STS area in 2021.

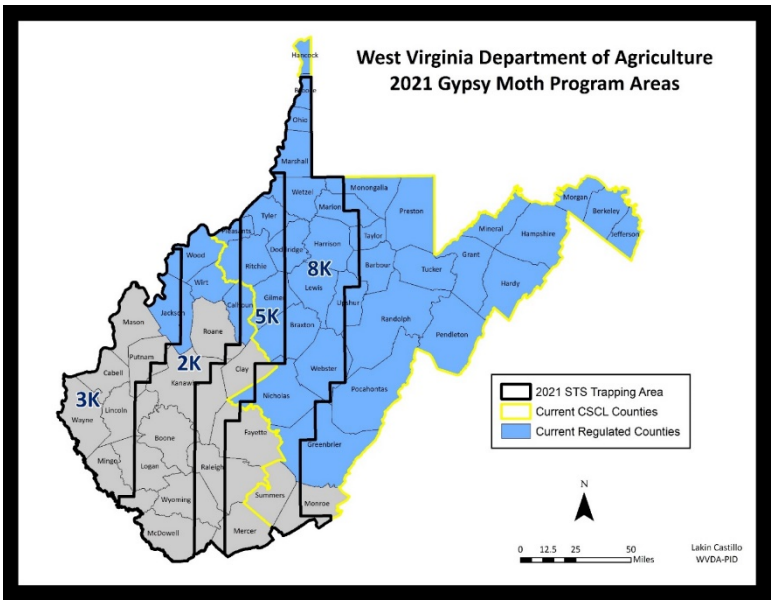
STS MATING DISRUPTION APPLICATION (Pheromone Flakes)

There were no mating disruption treatments in West Virginia in 2021.

STS SLOW THE SPREAD TRAPPING PROGRAM

In West Virginia, the Action Area covered approximately 4,242,260 acres, while the 5k and 8k Monitoring Areas covered 5,694,784acres. The 2k and 3k base-grids in the Action Area were placed using Delta traps. Milk carton traps were used within the 5k and 8k Monitoring Areas. A total of 3330 Delta traps were used in the STS Action Area and 548 Milk Carton traps were used in the Monitoring Areas. West Virginia had 3 delimit trapping areas during the trapping year of 2021. One (1) 500-meter grid with 9 traps, one (1) 1k grid with 9 traps, and one (1) area (9 traps) set on the base 2k grid using Milk Carton traps.

WEST VIRGINIA 2021 GYPSY MOTH PROGRAM AREAS



2021 STS TRAPPING BREAKDOWN

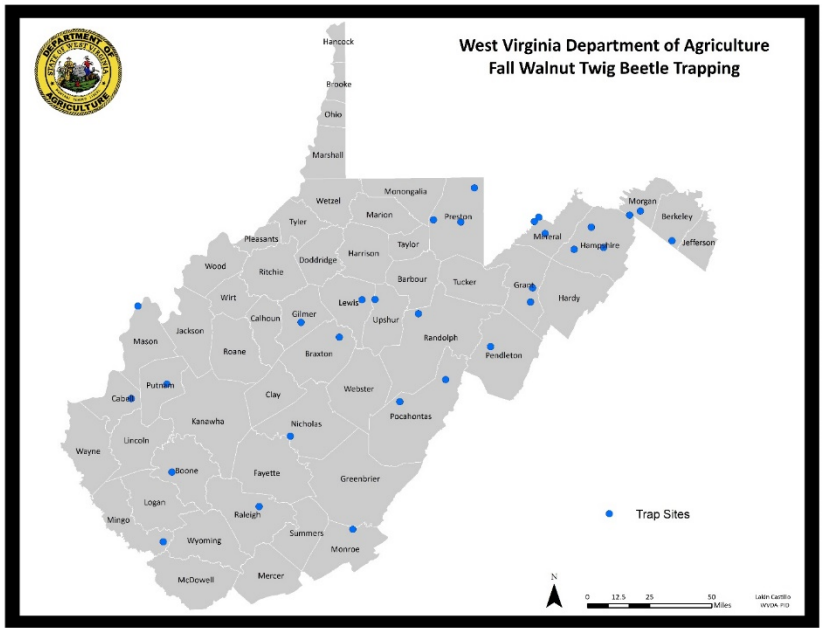
Grid	Proposed	Omits	Set
Regulatory	8	0	8
2K	2556	10	2546
3K	763	1	762
5K	306	0	306
8K	227	1	226
1K	9	0	9
500m	9	0	9
Totals	**3878**	**12**	**3,866**

Project Boundary	Proposed	Omits	Set
STS Action Area	3,337	11	3,336
STS Monitoring	533	1	532
Regulatory	8	0	8
Totals	**3,878**	**13**	**3,866**

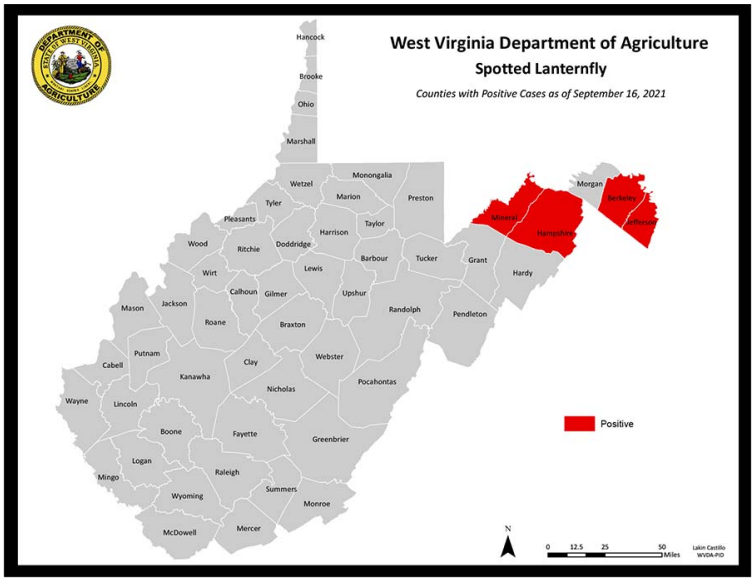
Trap type	Proposed	Omits	Set
Delta Traps	3330	11	3319
Milk Cartons	548	1	547
Totals	**3,887**	**12**	**3,866**

FOREST HEALTH PROTECTION PROGRAMS

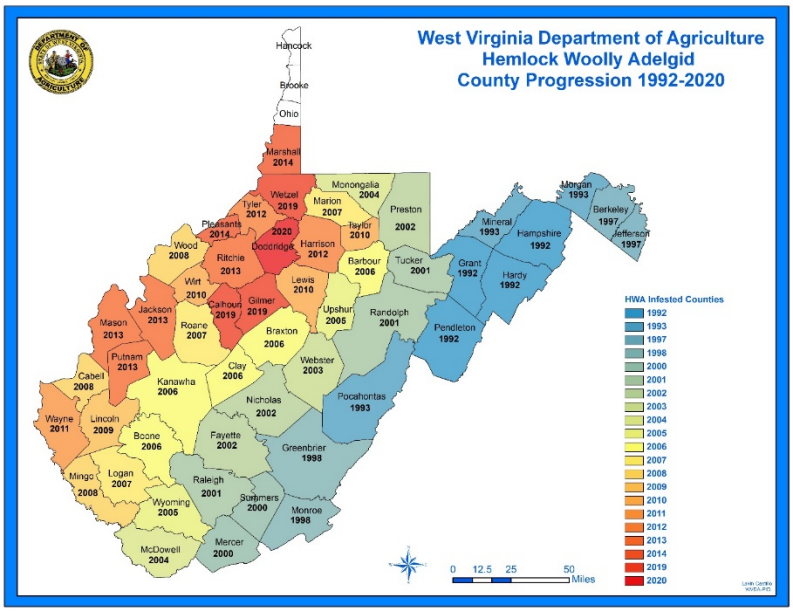
Walnut Twig Beetle Trapping—Fall trapping for the walnut twig beetle, the vector of thousand cankers disease, was completed and samples screened. Thirty-two traps were set and monitored for 4 weeks. The traps were focused around wood product industries, campgrounds and parks. Traps were serviced every week to two weeks depending on the amount of rain that fell during the trapping period. Samples were processed and screened by the and the Cooperative Forest Health Protection Coordinator with the WV Department of Agriculture. Samples screened to date are negative for the walnut twig beetle.



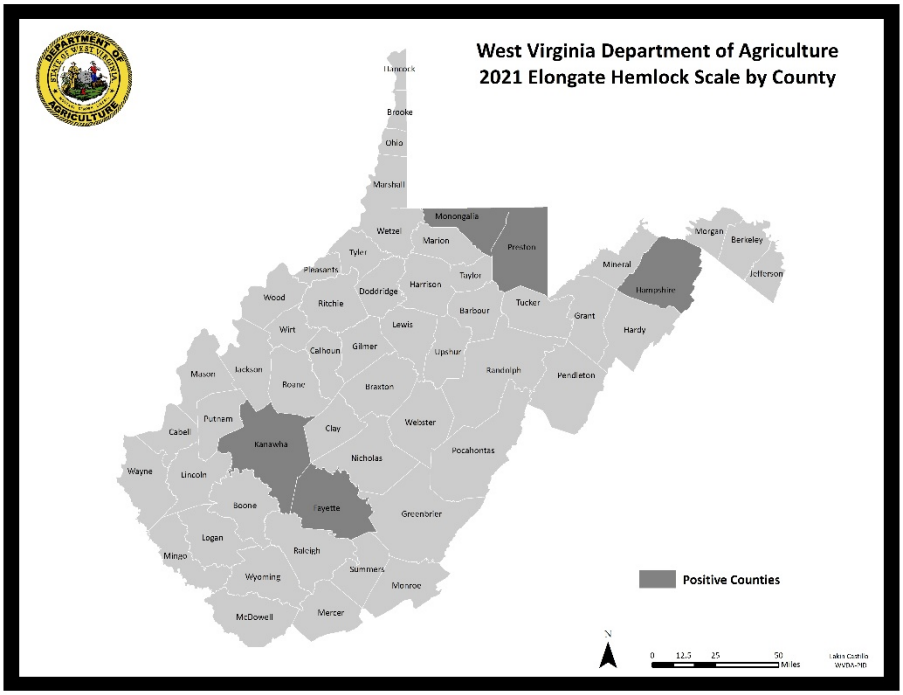
Spotted Lanternfly- Spotted Lanternfly has been found in four WV Counties, Berkeley and Mineral. Morgan and Hampshire. Visual surveys are still being conducted through the fall.



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) —HWA can now be found in 52 WV counties. WVDA continued to treat high-value and high-visibility infested hemlocks with Imidicloprid by inserting CoreTect tablets into the soil, and trunk injections; 1704 hemlocks were treated on state lands in 2021.
Previous release sites of *L. nigrinus* were monitored for predator survival and impact on HWA.



Elongate Hemlock Scale- WVDA has been found in five WV counties, Fayette, Hampshire, Kanawha, Monongalia and Preston. Surveys will continue throughout the fall and winter of 2021.



Beech Leaf Disease- WVDA surveyed for Beech Leaf Disease and revisited the seven long-term monitoring plots in areas of high risk and abundant beech resource. BLD was found in Hancock County in the Northern Panhandle of the state in 2020 and since then the disease has been found in areas of the park adjacent to the original discovery.