



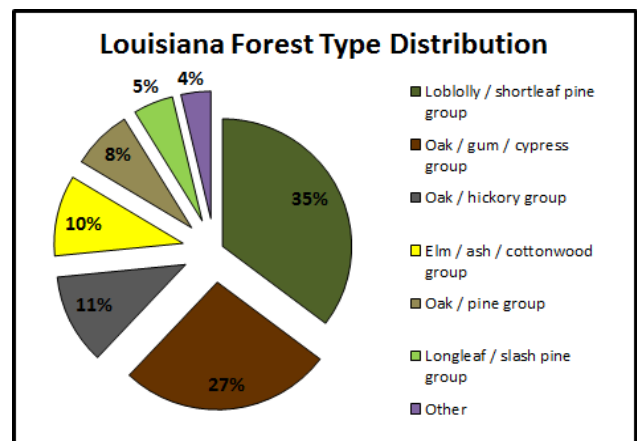
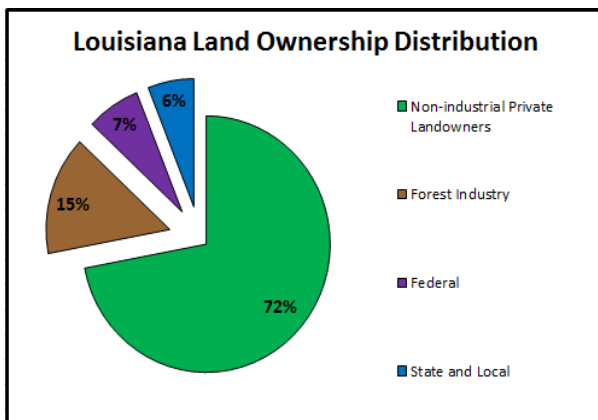
Louisiana

Forest Health Highlights 2024

The Resource



Louisiana's forests cover 15 million acres, nearly half of the state's land area. The majority of the state's forested land, some 10.8 million acres, is in non-industrial private ownership, while approximately 604,000 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 loblolly and shortleaf pine, oak-gum-cypress, oak-hickory, elm-ash-cottonwood, mixed oak-pine, and longleaf and slash pine. Other minor types account for approximately 4% 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 since the late 1990's. In 2018, we recorded 23 SPB spots in the Feliciana's. Our annual spring SPB survey has caught SPB specimens since 2018. Our spring survey consisted of 45 traps spanning over 27 parishes. Our trapping results consisted of five parishes having confirmed SPB catches with the heaviest concentration in the Felicianas. This past year, we've flown 42 whole survey flights, consisting of 50 parishes, across our state. The Louisiana Office of Forestry continues to monitor and educate landowners on SPB.

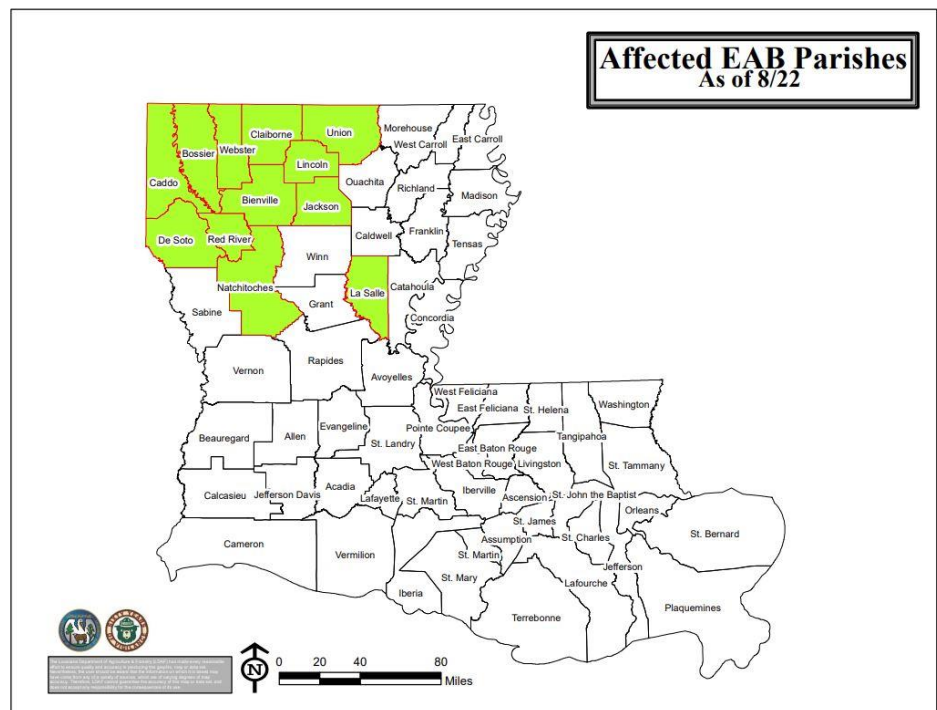
Pine engraver beetles (Ips spp.) and the black turpentine beetle remain at relatively normal levels. Because Ips infestations tend to be relatively small and scattered, they usually cannot be effectively controlled or salvaged, but their economic costs may exceed those caused by SPB.



Spongy Moth survey was conducted using 173 traps across the state and no spongy moths were captured.

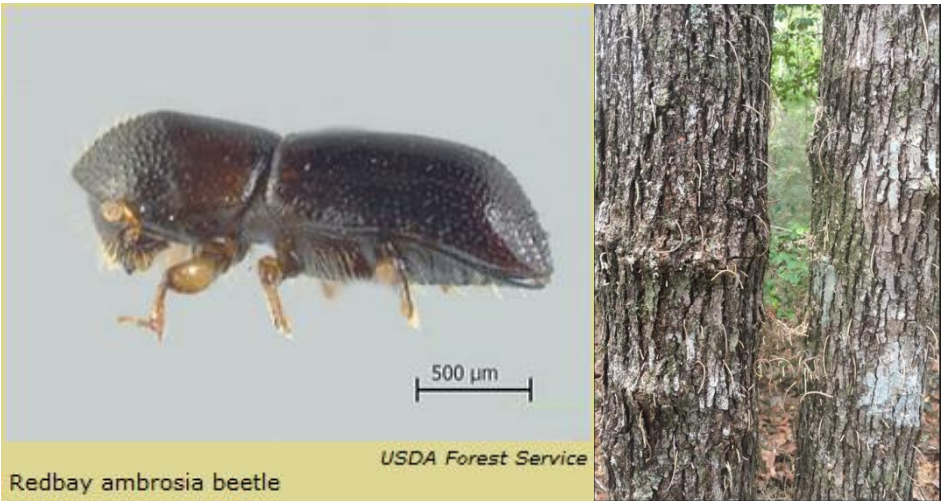
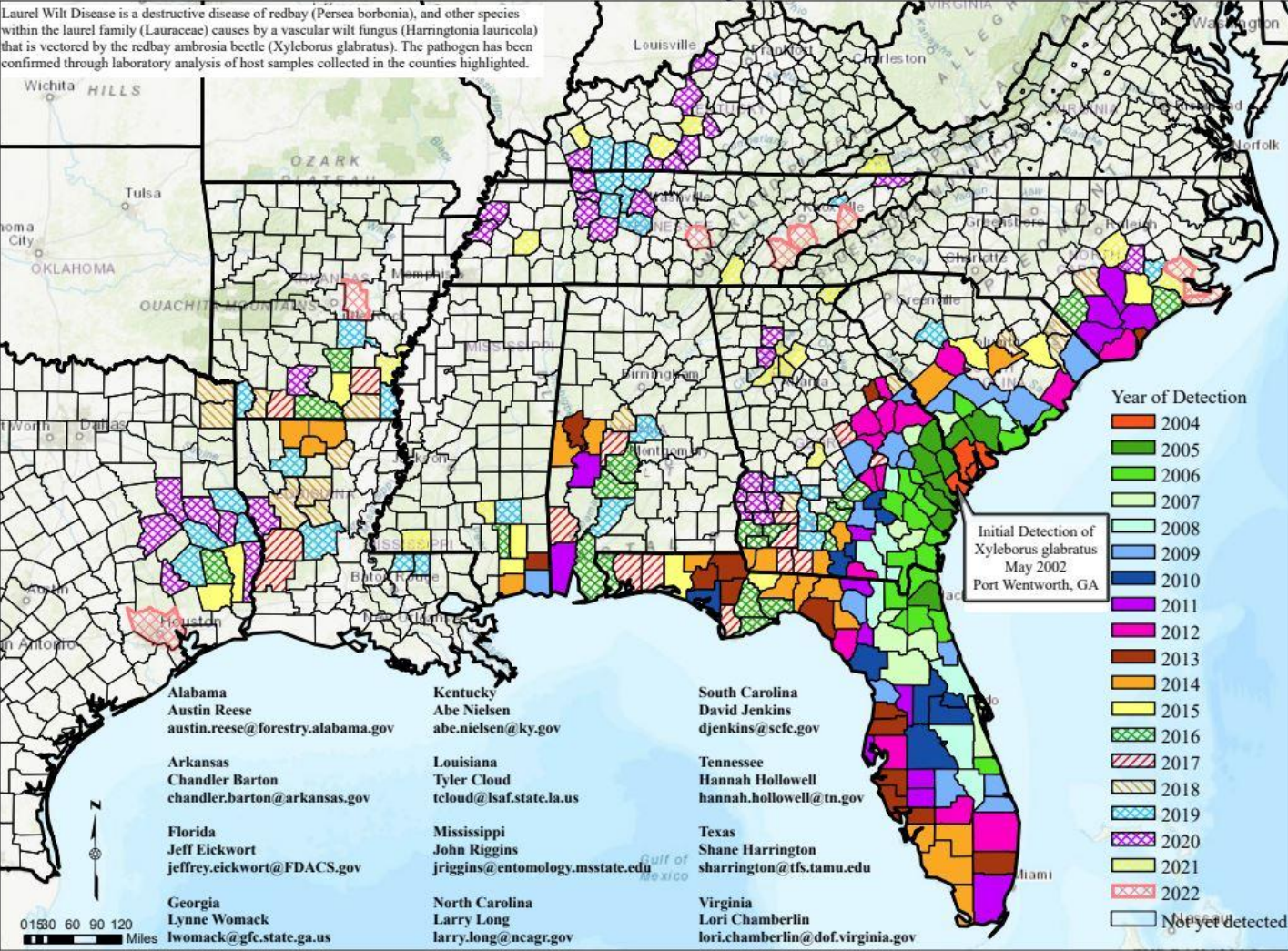


Emerald Ash borer was first confirmed in Webster Parish in February of 2015. It has since been confirmed in Bossier, Claiborne, Union, Lincoln, Bienville, Jackson, Morehouse, Ouachita, Natchitoches, Red River, La Salle, Caddo Parishes, Natchitoches, La Salle, and Red River Parishes. We have continued to inform landowners of this pest and have distributed information through press releases and handouts. We continue to coordinate with other agencies to monitor and implement our EAB response plan.

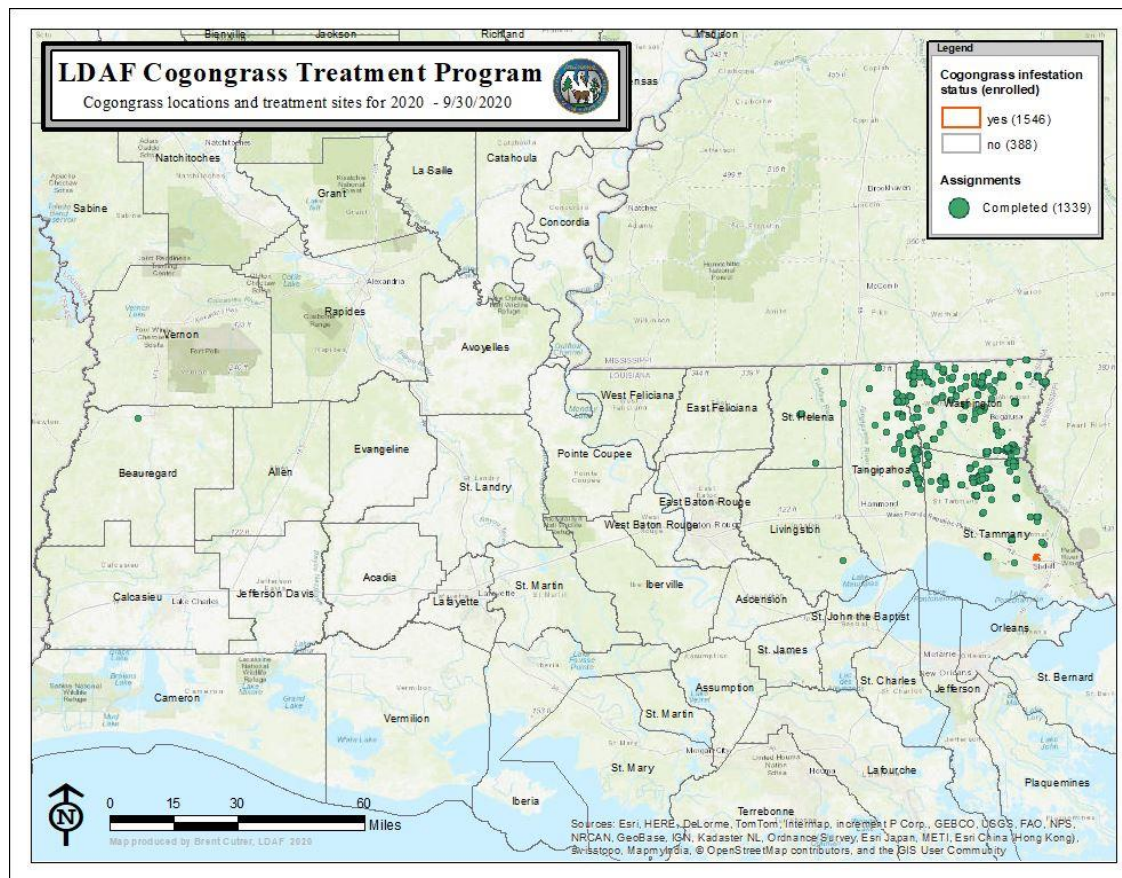


Laurel Wilt Disease and the Redbay Ambrosia Beetle made its introduction into Union Parish, Louisiana in September 2014. There were no new additions in 2024. Our foresters continue to observe for declining sassafras and redbay trees caused by laurel wilt.

Distribution of Counties with Laurel Wilt Disease* by year of Initial Detection October 26, 2022



Cogongrass is a serious invasive species occurring primarily in southeast Louisiana. LDAF has purchased side by sides for the Cogongrass Treatment Program. In 2024 we were able to spray 96 spots for 42.11 acres. LDAF previously advertised our program in our department’s market bulletin and participated in landowner meetings to help spread the word about cogongrass and our treatment program that we have implemented.



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