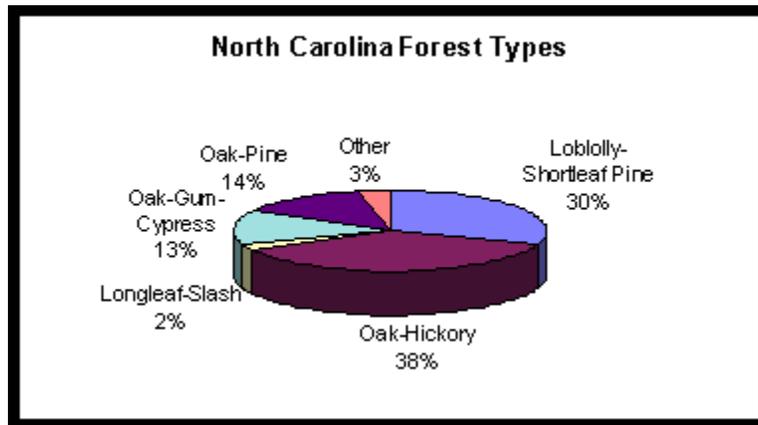


# Forest Health Highlights 1997

## North Carolina

The North Carolina Division of Forest Resources provides forest health protection assistance to state and private land managers within the State. This program is funded cooperatively by the State and the USDA Forest Service Forest Health Protection unit.



### North Carolina Forest Facts

- Over **55%** of North Carolina is **forested** (more than 18.7 million acres).
- Almost **90%** of forested acreage in North Carolina is **privately owned**.
- The **National Forests in North Carolina** (1.1 million acres) provide recreational and wildlife benefits as well as forest products and jobs for thousands of people.
- The **southern pine beetle** (SPB) is North Carolina's most significant forest insect pest. The outbreak in 1997 occurred in the coastal areas that were affected by Hurricanes Bertha and Fran in 1996. Many trees were stressed by the salt-water spray and had thin crowns. The area around the Croatan National Forest and Camp LeJeune was extremely hard hit. Over the year, there were 1,117 SPB infestations with population being classified as outbreak in 4 counties. Cooperative suppression project funding was used to minimize the losses from this native pest. The outlook for 1998 is for continued losses, with increasing population levels.
- The **gypsy moth** continues to threaten North Carolina's hardwood forests. A two county area in the northeastern corner of the State is now quarantined. Using a statewide network of traps, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, Plant Industry Division works closely with the Division of Forest Resources and USDA Forest Service to monitor for any accidental introductions of the gypsy moth outside of the quarantined area.
- The **fall cankerworm** populations have increased to damaging levels within the City of Charlotte. Mature willow oaks are being defoliated and some mortality is occurring. A suppression project will be conducted in 1998.
- Since 1993, North Carolina has participated with the USDA Forest Service in a pilot project to demonstrate that the rate at which the gypsy moth spreads into new areas could be reduced in a cost effective manner using current technology. Several intervention projects have taken place within the State over the past 4 years and the results indicate that the **rate of spread of the gypsy moth can be slowed by 60%**.

- **Dogwood anthracnose** is a disease that occurs in the forest environment at higher elevations and in cool moist areas. The disease is currently found in 29 counties within the State and is causing significant mortality to the native dogwoods.

## North Carolina Division of Forest Resources and the USDA Forest Service

In spite of the relatively good health of North Carolina's forests, a variety of insects and diseases (both native and introduced), and human-caused impacts such as air pollution, continue to threaten the State's resources. To deal with this constantly changing mix of challenges, the Division of Forest Resources and the Forest Health Protection unit of the USDA Forest Service cooperate to prevent, detect, suppress and manage this multitude of threats. The partnership between the two agencies has worked for three decades to maintain and improve the health of North Carolina's forests.

***Forest Health Protection contributions (dollars) to the North Carolina Division of Forest Resources Cooperative Forest Health program, cooperative pest suppression projects and National Forests in North Carolina pest suppression, 1995-98.***

	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
<b>Cooperative Forest Health Program</b>	82,578	86,352	86,352	89,782
<b>Forest Health Monitoring</b>	0	0	0	71,000
<b>Cooperative suppression/eradication</b>				
southern pine beetle suppression	161,250	347,440	125,000	75,000
gypsy moth eradication	0	55,912	66,000	200,000
Slow-the-Spread (gypsy moth)	264,026	173,813	94,500	171,000
<b>NFs in North Carolina</b>				
southern pine beetle suppression	23,378	39,522	111,000	164,000
gypsy moth eradication	4,341	4,500	25,000	148,000

**For additional information contact:**

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