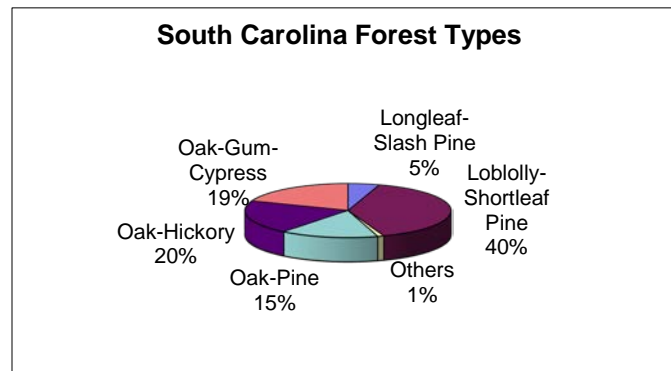


Forest Health Highlights 1998

South Carolina

The South Carolina Forestry Commission 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.



South Carolina Forest Facts

- Over **2/3** of the entire state of South Carolina is **forested** (more than 12.6 million acres).
- Over 90% of forested acreage in South Carolina is privately owned.
- The **Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests** (560,000 acres) provide recreational and wildlife benefits as well as timber products and jobs to thousands of people.
- The **southern pine beetle** (SPB) is South Carolina's most destructive forest insect pest. In 1995, the State suffered the worst outbreak on record when over \$100 million worth of timber was killed. Beetle populations have declined since that time. Since that time populations have fluctuated at lower levels. During 1998 the number of beetle infestations increased in the Piedmont counties following the summer drought. Throughout the year there were 2,557 infestations affecting almost 944,000 acres of host type. The outlook for 1999 is for increasing SPB population levels.
- **Fusiform rust** is the most destructive disease of southern pines in South Carolina. The fungus has severely infected pine stands on an estimated 1.4 million acres in 1998.
- **Forest tree nurseries** are closely monitored and destructive insects and diseases are rapidly controlled.
- The **gypsy moth** threatens South Carolina's hardwood forests. Using a statewide network of traps, the Forestry Commission and USDA Forest Service work closely together to monitor for any accidental introductions of the gypsy moth. An introduction of the Asian gypsy moth was successfully eradicated in 1995 north of Myrtle Beach.
- **Dogwood anthracnose** is a disease that occurs in the forest environment at higher elevations and in moist areas. This disease is currently found in 6 counties in the western part of the State. Mortality of the native dogwoods ranges from 5% to 50% in these areas.

The South Carolina Forestry Commission and USDA Forest Service

In spite of the relatively good health of South 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 Forestry Commission 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 South Carolina's forests.

Forest Health Protection contributions (dollars) to South Carolina Forestry Commission Cooperative Forest Health program, cooperative suppression projects, and Francis Marion/ Sumter National Forest suppression projects, 1996-99.

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
Cooperative Forest Health Program	60,984	60,984	60,984	60,984
Forest Health Monitoring	0	0	50,000	100,000
Cooperative suppression				
southern pine beetle	700,980	0	0	95,000
Francis Marion & Sumter NFs				
southern pine beetle	197,899	25,227	25,000	25,000

For additional information, contact:

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