

# FACT SHEET

No. 40

## Timber & Timber Harvesting in West Virginia

Fall, 2002

### Forest Health

A healthy forest is one that current scientific knowledge indicates can be managed to provide timber and the many services and commodities expected by the landowner and society on a sustained basis. Thus, the primary goal of a forest health program is to keep forest ecosystems functioning aggressively under accepted ecologic, social and economic guidelines. Towards this end, federal and state agencies and private employers employ insect (entomologists) and tree disease (forest pathologists) professionals to provide technical assistance in the prevention, identification, evaluation and suppression of forest insect, tree disease, and other problems, including monitoring protocols to determine forest health changes over time.

Entities causing problems for forests include air pollutants; nutrient supply; temperature extremes; flooding; drought; fire; decay, rust-causing and wilt-inducing fungi; bacteria; viruses; ice storms; defoliating and boring insects; wind; animal damage; nematodes; invasive weeds and inadequate inspection activities at ports of entry that allow exotic pests to slip by.

Forest health is determined locally based on tree species and the environment; consequently a single national prescription to achieve healthy forests or to fight a particular problem is inappropriate.

The problems of trees are highly complex. If you see what you consider to be serious tree problems such as tree death, wide spread dieback and decline of trees, extensive areas of trees without leaves or with yellowing leaves, etc. report the location, type of damage and type of trees to the Plant Industry Division, 304-558-2212 or write it at 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, WV 25305-0191. It is in charge of the continuing Cooperative Forest Health Monitoring Program.

The following well-illustrated references are normally available at most libraries:

Sinclair, Wayne A., Howard H. Lyon and Warren T. Johnson. 1987. Diseases of trees and shrubs. Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, NY. 512 p.

Johnson, Warren T. and Howard H. Lyon. 1976. Insects that feed on trees and shrubs: an illustrated practical guide. Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, NY. 464p

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