



Technical Bulletin

Forest Health
Notes # 4
Issued: 9/24/2007

Forest Health Assessment – Risk Rating

The management goals of southern landowners are diverse. Some are interested in producing products resulting in the greatest revenue possible. Others are more interested in the recreational value of their forested acreage. Regardless of the management objectives information concerning the susceptibility of the stands to mortality is important.

Rating systems have been developed for ranking stands into susceptibility classes, based on site and stand characteristics. Recently the U. S. Forest Service produced risk-rating maps for the state of Mississippi and the region and can be viewed at the following web site - <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/foresthealth/programs/riskmap/maps/statemaps.shtml>. Included is the National Insect and Disease Risk Map for Mississippi, as well as risk maps for fusiform rust, red oak decline and southern pine beetle for Mississippi. Similar maps for other southern states can also be viewed at this web site.

These maps indicate the risk or the expectation that 25% or more of the standing live volume of trees greater than one-inch diameter will die over the next 15 years. The percent mortality is the percent of the standing live volume of trees greater than one inch in diameter projected to die over the next 15 years.

Based on these findings we need to monitor our stands closely for forest health issues. Significant investments have been made in our forests and the ability to meet our management objectives will not be possible if expected mortality is observed.

For additional information contact:

[Mississippi Forestry Commission](#)

[Local Office](#)

or

T. Evan Nebeker

tevannebeker@bellsouth.net.