



Southern Pine Beetle Forecast for Mississippi - 2008

The Mississippi Forestry Commission has been involved with the annual South-wide survey to predict southern pine beetle (SPB) infestation trends with pheromone traps. Pheromone traps, figure above with blue turpentine pouch and pheromone pouch in place, were placed in the field for four weeks. During 2008 there were 31 trap locations in Mississippi. Of these 26 where counties selected from the five administrative districts of the Commission including: South Central District - Kemper, Clarke, Newton, Jones; Southwest District - Copiah, Madison, Jefferson Davis, Walthall, Amite, Jefferson; Southeast District - Forrest, George, Pearl River, Hancock; Northwest District - Grenada, Holmes, Yalobusha, Attala, Carroll, DeSoto; Northeast District - Lee, Chickasaw, Lafayette, Tishomingo, Webster and Noxubee. The other trap locations were on National Forests and Ranger Districts within those forests.

Of the insects trapped in Mississippi only 4% were SPB at a rate of 0.4 SPB being trapped per day in contrast to 5.3 checkered clerid beetles being trapped per day. The checkered clerid beetle is a predator of the SPB and higher numbers are most desirable. Based on these trap catches in 2008 suggests a **declining or continued low SPB activity** in Mississippi for the year. This predic-

tion is also true for the region where declining or continued low SPB activity is predicted.

On average only a few SPB were trapped weekly if any. Only from trap catches in Jefferson County on April 28, 2008 was a concern noted. From that date 130 SPB's were trapped and only 64 checkered clerid beetles. Such numbers would have predicted moderate SPB activity for the season. But the trap catches were not sustained and dropped to just a few SPB's the following weeks. No other incidences were noted. We look forward to another year of low SPB activity. But we must always investigate tree mortality and determine the cause for proper prescriptions to be made.

For additional information contact:
[Mississippi Forestry Commission](http://MississippiForestryCommission.org)
[Local Office](http://MississippiForestryCommission.org/LocalOffice) or T. Evan Nebeker
tevannebeker@bellsouth.net.

