

North Carolina Forest Service – Forest Health Branch

All North Carolina Forest Service personnel are tasked with maintaining healthy forests. Our Mission is to protect, manage and promote forest resources for the citizens of North Carolina. Foresters and technicians work in the areas of water quality, urban forestry, tree nurseries, forest management, education and outreach, and forest protection to achieve this mission. The Forest Protection Section of the NCFS is primarily concerned with tree health and those agents which directly affect forest health including fire, biotic stress agents, and abiotic stress agents.

The Forest Health Branch of the Forest Protection Section specializes in the biotic and abiotic stress agents including insects, diseases, and invasive plants. They maintain statewide pest surveillance and take action when significant forest resources are threatened. The Forest Health Branch provides professional expertise and advice on the management of harmful forest and shade tree pests, and is responsible for training NCFS personnel how to identify and understand the roles of and threats posed by insects and disease-causing organisms in natural and managed forest systems.

The Forest Health Branch provides diagnostic assistance when forest health problems are encountered. Homeowners, landowners, and consulting foresters are encouraged to first contact their county forestry staff for assistance with tree health issues. When necessary, cases may then be passed along to Forest Health staff who are specially trained in forest health issues. Forest Health personnel provide assistance throughout the state; offices are located in Raleigh, Clayton, Goldsboro, and Morganton. On-site visits, inspections, and consultations can usually be conducted within one week. Pictures can also be emailed to the Forest Health Branch, and assistance can often be provided over the phone/email for minor problems. If a non-native invasive insect, disease, or weed of concern is suspected, the Forest Health Branch should be contacted immediately.

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