

# HEALTH OF SUGAR MAPLE IN VERMONT — 2008

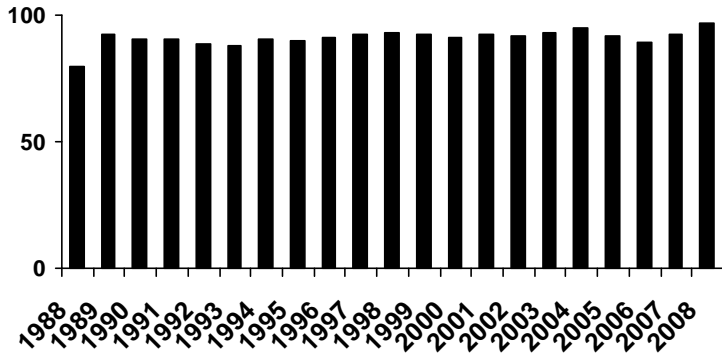
## Reported by the State of Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

This information on sugar maple health is based on aerial surveys and field observations. Every year, the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation looks at tree health from the ground and from the air. In 2008, all 4.7 million acres of forestland were evaluated from an airplane at least once. In addition, crews assessed monitoring plots on the ground to rate tree condition.

**Sugar Maple Condition** was particularly good in 2008, with dense, lush foliage. Trees on plots monitored as part of the North American Maple Project were in the best condition observed over the 20 years they have been evaluated. Weather conditions continued to be good for growing trees, with adequate precipitation throughout the growing season, and above-average rainfall in June, July, and early August.

### Sugar Maple Condition in Vermont

**% of Trees Rated Healthy**  
*North American Maple Project Plots*



An **Ice Storm** in mid-December caused widespread breakage. The most severe damage was in southern Windham County at elevations above 1000 feet. The storm was preceded by heavy rain on unfrozen ground, causing some uprooting. Recommendations for managing stands affected by ice have been updated based on studies following the 1998 ice storm. Most broken sugar maples are expected to recover.

**Windstorms** in mid-July were locally important in northern Vermont, especially in Cambridge and Waterville.

There was very little **Sugar Maple Defoliation** in 2008, with populations of most defoliators at low levels.

Forest tent caterpillar populations have collapsed statewide, although there was a remnant population in central Vermont this spring. Moth catches in 2008 were the lowest since 2001. Dieback from the recent outbreak continues in occasional sugarbushes. However, tree health in most defoliated locations has recovered.

Saddled prominent populations have also returned to background levels, but caused some light damage in northern Windsor County

In spite of the ample rainfall, maple foliage diseases, like anthracnose, were uncommon.

Of great concern to sugarmakers is the detection of **Asian Longhorned Beetle** in Worcester, MA. As of November, over 4000 infested trees had been detected, including some in wooded areas. A 63 square mile area is under quarantine.

Officials intend to eradicate the Worcester infestation. All infested trees that have been identified will be removed by the time the beetles emerge from trees next summer.

The most important tools for protecting maples from Asian longhorned beetle are prevention and early detection. To prevent movement of exotic woodborers, we discourage moving firewood more than 50 miles from where it is cut. We have a variety of materials available, and a website [www.firewood.vt.gov](http://www.firewood.vt.gov), to spread this message.

Early detection of the insect, should it find its way to Vermont, is also critical. We urge sugarmakers to become familiar with Asian longhorned beetle, and keep an eye out for potential infestations. (More information is at [www.uvm.edu/albeetle/](http://www.uvm.edu/albeetle/).) We are also distributing information to the public to help locate suspect beetles and are launching a citizen monitoring program for exotic pests.



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