

WHITE PINE MANAGEMENT IN THE 21ST CENTURY

A McIntire-Stennis supported project



Eastern white pine is often referred to as “the tree that built America,” and has been used in boatbuilding and home construction for centuries.

Since the late 1990s, forest health specialists have found a significant increase in the damage caused by the *Caliciopsis* canker to white pine — first in central New Hampshire and then elsewhere in New England.

To discover why, University of Maine researchers and their collaborators study one of the fungal pathogens that causes the canker, *Caliciopsis pinea*.

They aim to understand how the pathogen biologically affects trees, its incidence and severity, and its impact on the forest products industry. The researchers also evaluate other stress agents that affect the health of white pine, such as land use history, insects, other fungi or climatic events.

Their findings inform recommendations that help land managers cultivate forests with less fungal infection and greater wood growth. This tree quality improvement will ultimately help landowners and mills recover the values currently lost to the canker.

This project is conducted in collaborate with the U.S. Forest Service, New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands, Maine Forest Service, Northeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association, and regional foresters and loggers.



About McIntire-Stennis

The McIntire-Stennis program, a unique federal-state partnership, cultivates and delivers forestry and natural resource innovations for a better future. By advancing research and education that increases the understanding of emerging challenges and fosters the development of relevant solutions, the McIntire-Stennis program has ensured healthy resilient forests and communities, and an exceptional natural resources workforce since 1962.



IMPACT

UMaine issued an eastern white pine management plan in 2018. The recommendations aim to reduce *Caliciopsis pinea* infestations and subsequent damage caused by the pathogen.



48 percent

The number of white pine logs processed in a recent study that were infected with *Caliciopsis pinea*.



\$2 billion

A conservative estimate of the value of white pine trees in Maine's forests. Maine mills annually pay \$40 million for eastern white pine logs.



Over 70

The number of forest managers and scientists from 17 states who utilize UMaine's white pine research and management recommendations.