

2021 Georgia Southern Pine Beetle Aerial Survey Report

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Southern pine beetle (SPB) activity was very low across the state in 2021. Above average rainfall throughout the summer maintained healthy tree vigor resulting in very few pine beetle spots. Flights were flown across the state in August and September for a total of 5,509 miles. Based on a 1-mile visibility on each side of the plane, these flights combined had visual observations on approximately 5,642,816 acres. From these surveys and landowner reports, eight SPB spots were detected on approximately 58 acres across the state. The majority of these spots (75%) were less than one acre in size, but did have active SPB during field checks. GFC foresters reported three Black Turpentine Beetle (BTB) spots on approximately three acres while only reporting one Ips engraver beetle spot on less than one acre. Figure 1 shows the pine beetle spots and flight lines in Georgia for 2021. Local foresters visited landowners at each spot, advising them to harvest the spots or continue monitoring to determine if the spots were actively spreading. If an increase in pine beetle activity occurs this fall, GFC will continue to monitor SPB spots on the ground and by air as needed.

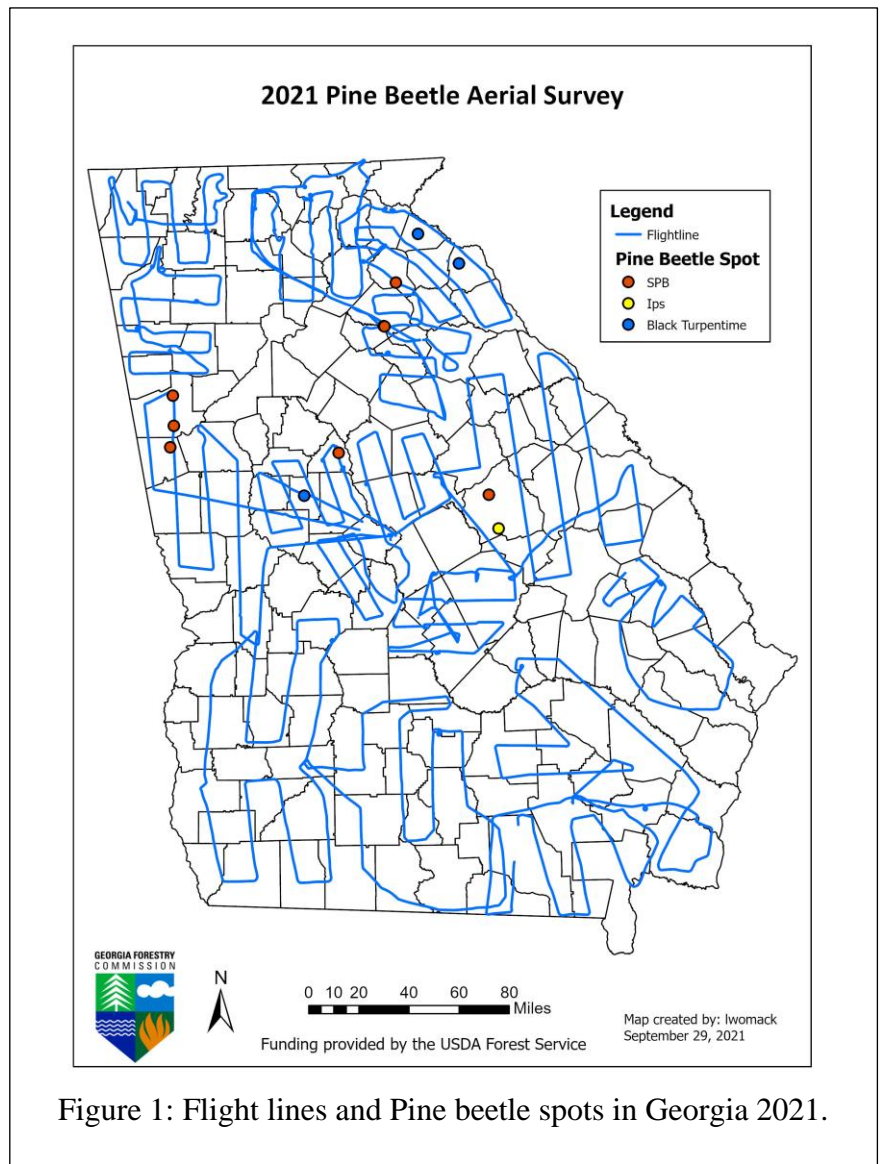


Figure 1: Flight lines and Pine beetle spots in Georgia 2021.