



*Loblolly pine with littleleaf disease symptoms.*

## Recognizing High-Risk Sites

Risk and severity of littleleaf disease varies widely by site on the Southern Piedmont. Recognizing the elements that comprise high-risk sites gives land managers the opportunity to take preventive measures early in stand history before problems arise and before economic losses occur.

There are two methods for rating littleleaf disease risk. One requires detailed field observations, while the other relies summarily on soil maps. In the first method, a points scale was developed to place sites in three risk classes on the basis of degree of erosion, subsoil consistency, depth to a zone of reduced permeability, and presence of subsoil mottling. Values for each of these characteristics are obtained from table 1. To classify risk, these values are summed: 0-50 = high risk; 51-74 = moderate risk; 75-100 = low risk. These ratings correlate closely with symptom incidence and associated growth loss and mortality.