
2025 Florida Land Steward of the Year Tour: Jolly Palms at Mohawk

Property of Rebecca and Manny Mendoza

Lake County, Florida

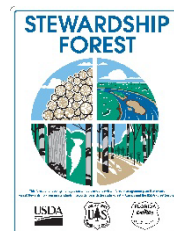


**Congratulations to Rebecca and Manny Mendoza,
our 2025 Florida Land Stewards of the Year!**

These land stewards are recognized this year for their outstanding stewardship efforts and accomplishments at their beautiful and historic, 120-acre Jolly Palms at Mohawk Lake County property, located on the north end of what is known geologically as the Lake Wales Ridge.



Thanks for joining us for the tour today! Topics will include restoration and management of native forest habitats, some plant identification, invasive species, beekeeping, citrus industry history and challenges in the area, and history of the Jolly Palms Lodge and Cabins.



Funding for the Florida Land Steward Program is provided by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service's Florida Forest Service, the Florida Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee, and the Florida Tree Farm Program.

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Florida Land Steward Tour:
Jolly Palms at Mohawk
Lake County, Florida



Agenda:

9:00 AM **Check-in, meet & greet**

9:30 **Tour begins with a short hike in scrubby-sandhill habitat**

- Join us for some native and invasive plant ID, and learn about the management practices deployed here to maintain and enhance this area like prescribed fire, targeted herbicide application to reduce the oak component, and longleaf pine establishment.

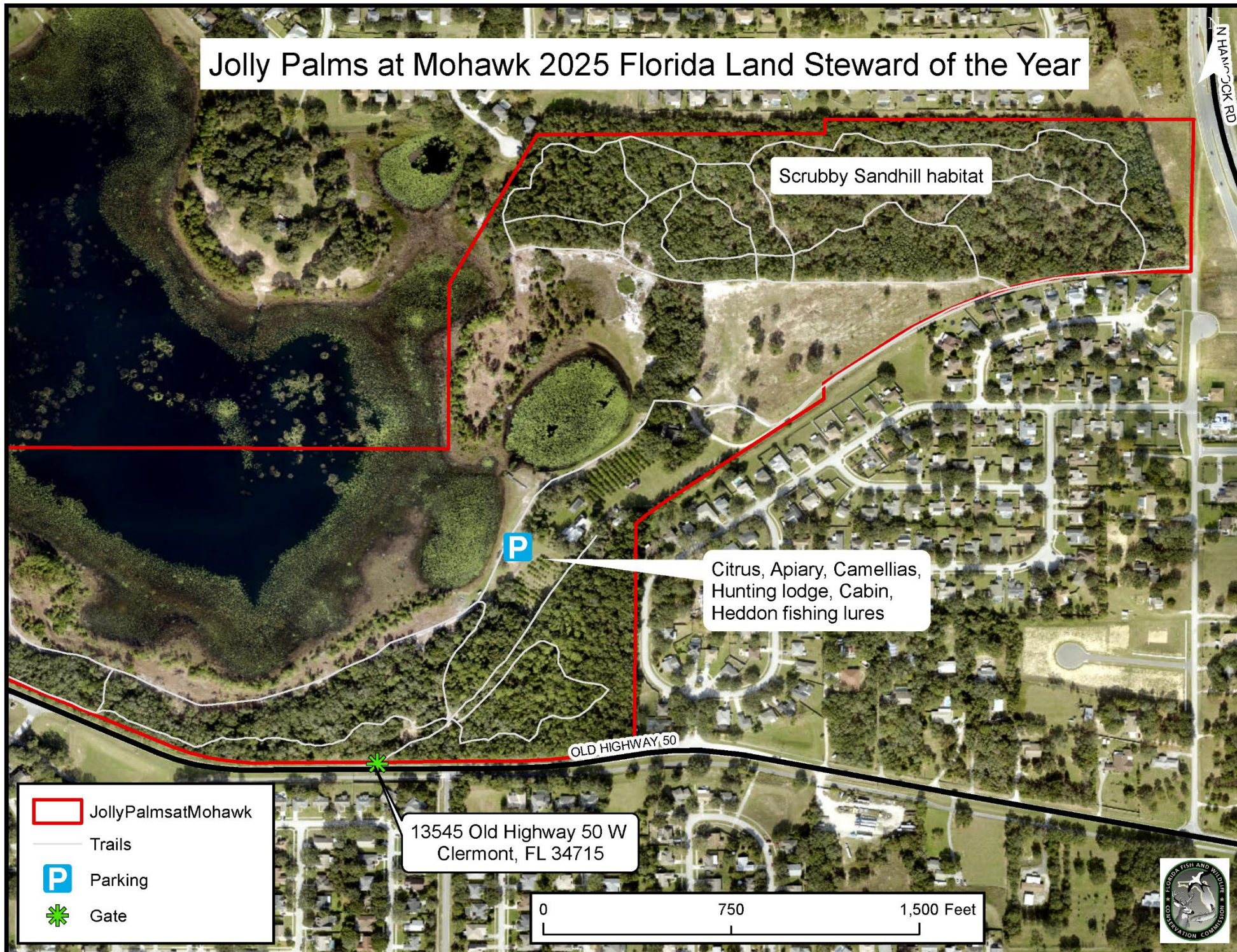
10:30 **Choose your adventure from these topic stations:**

- **Citrus:** The McLean family will share information about the history, latest production approaches, and plant health issues associated with growing citrus.
- **Apiary:** Ted Miksa from Miksa Honey Farms will provide a brief introduction to what's involved in managing bees for local honey production
- **Camellias:** Charlie Russ will give an introduction to the camellia varieties here. Over the last 200 years, camellias have proven to be attractive and dependable additions to the southern landscape, where they grow and bloom with minimal care.
- **Jolly Palms Hunt Lodge, Cabins, and Heddon fishing lures:** After the freezes of 1894-1895 ended many of the region's citrus operations, the excellent fishing and hunting resources in this area led to the opening of the Jolly Palms Hunting and Fishing Lodge in 1897. Around 1900, W.T. and Laura Heddon of Heddon Fishing Lures stayed at the lodge to test their lures on the prized Florida largemouth bass that resided in this and other area lakes. Chuck Heddon, W.T. and Laura Heddon's grandson, will be available to answer questions about the Heddon family and their impact on the artificial fishing lure industry.

12:00 PM **Tour Evaluations and Lunch**

1:30 **Adjourn**

Jolly Palms at Mohawk 2025 Florida Land Steward of the Year



Tour Resource Contacts

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FLORIDA LAND STEWARD



A Quarterly Newsletter for Florida Landowners and Resource Professionals

WINTER/SPRING 2025 - VOLUME 14, NO. 1

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USDA **NRCS**
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service



Funding for this publication is provided by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Florida Forest Service and a grant from the Florida Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee.

An Equal Opportunity Institution.

Congratulations Rebecca and Manny Mendoza, 2025 Florida Land Steward Landowners of the Year

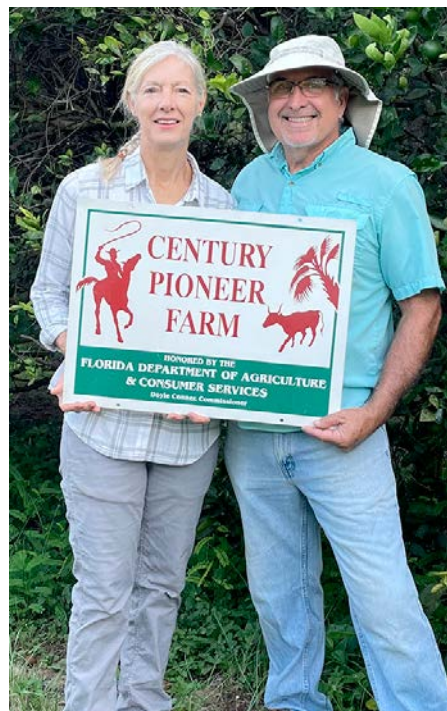
By Jason Ballard, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Manny and Rebecca Mendoza continue to carry on a long history of land stewardship on the 120-acre Jolly Palms at Mohawk property located in Lake County, on the north end of what is known geologically as the Lake Wales Ridge. The family history began in 1888 when Rebecca's great uncle, Charles A. Stokes, purchased the land and planted the first grove of citrus trees. The commercial citrus industry was on the rise in this area until the freezes over the 1894-1895 winter damaged a large percentage of groves and drove many producers out of business. Excellent fishing and hunting resources were found

in the area and that led Charles to open the Jolly Palms Hunting and Fishing Lodge in 1897. The lodge consisted of a main house and three cabins. The Orange Belt and Tavares & Gulf Railroads ran through the lodge's front yard to pick up mail and to drop off guests throughout the seasons. Business was steady and the following year in 1898, Harry K. Stokes (Rebecca's grandfather), arrived at the lodge to work as a hunting guide for his brother Charles.

Jolly Palms Lodge and Cabins

The lodge was featured in the November 1900 *Field and Stream* Magazine article, "A Winter Flight to Florida". Not long after, W.T. and Laura Heddon of Heddon Fishing Lures arrived at the lodge to test their lures on the prized Florida largemouth bass that existed in the many surrounding lakes. A second outdoor magazine publisher, Forest and Stream, ran an article in 1906, also highlighting the great outdoor opportunities that existed here. The hunting lodge closed in the 1920's as Harry focused on his duties as a local bank president and Lake County Commissioner for 5 terms that ended in 1956. Harry's youngest son, Dick Stokes (Rebecca's father), graduated from the University of Florida in 1949 with a Forestry degree and joined the National Park Service (NPS) in 1950. Following a 30-year career with the NPS, Dick returned to the Jolly Palms full time and following the freezes of the 1980s, developed a Forest Management Plan,



Congratulations Rebecca and Manny Mendoza, 2025 Florida Land Steward Landowners of the Year. Photo by Rebecca Mendoza.

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Manny and Rebecca at the historic Jolly Palms Lodge & Cabins. Photo by Rebecca Mendoza.



Children Drew and Alex planting longleaf pine. Photo by Rebecca Mendoza.



Manny working on removing a patch of downy rose myrtle. Photo by Rebecca Mendoza.

in conjunction with the Florida Forest Service, to replace some of the old citrus groves with slash pine plantings. The property was also designated as a Century Pioneer Farm in 1990. Dick continually encouraged his brothers to hold the land instead of selling and around the early 2000's, the Stokes family (his widow Lillian, and daughters Rebecca and Laura) was able to acquire the remaining family land that exists today.

Conservation and Stewardship Planning with Partners

Beginning around 2012, under pressure from surrounding development, it became evident to the family that they become more active stewards of the land. They contacted the Florida Forest Service and had a consulting forester update their Forest Management Plan. This action led to developing working relationships with numerous government agencies, nonprofit conservation organizations, and

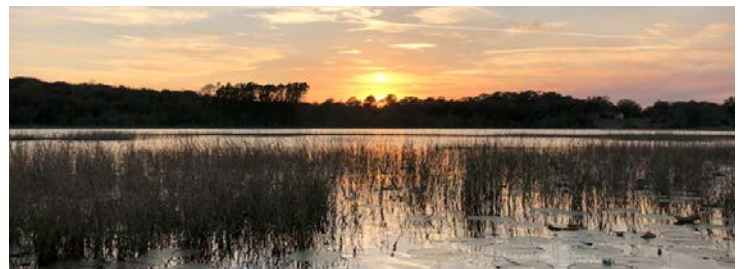
private agricultural businesses. The many partners involved in this journey include the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), Florida Forest Service, Alachua Conservation Trust, Wildlands Conservation Inc., Quail Forever, Florida Native Plant Society, as well as McLean Family Farms (the family behind Uncle Matt's Organic juice) as their citrus consultant, and Miksa Honey Farms, as their beekeepers.

Working the Land

Over the last 13 years, Manny and Rebecca have been involved in many conservation management practices on their working landscape that include harvesting the slash pine plantation that was previously planted by her father and reforesting that acreage with longleaf pine; brush management amongst oak encroached areas to allow room for

natural regeneration from existing longleaf pines; chemically treating and hand removing invasive plants such as downy rose myrtle, coral ardisia, Caesarweed, cogongrass, and natal grass; maintaining and improving the organic citrus groves; propagating native plants, especially native wildflowers; providing habitat for honey and pollinator production; reducing the hardwood encroachment and returning remnant sandhill and scrub areas back to groundcover rich environments; providing habitat for a host of plant and animal species that include state and federal listed species such as sand skinks, gopher tortoises, Brittons beargrass, scrub plum, and Lewton's milkwort; and improving habitat for other species such as eastern diamond-back rattlesnake, northern bobwhite quail, barred owl, sandhill crane, wading birds, songbirds, and Florida cooters.

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(Left) Gopher tortoise heading for its burrow. (Right) Sunset on Plum Lake. Photos by Rebecca Mendoza.

Manny and Rebecca have also been honored by FWC's Wildlife Habitat Recognition Program for their efforts in promoting wildlife habitat. Outside of the many natural resources focused efforts, they have also maintained the historic lodge house, a cabin, and a camelia

garden with two named varieties. One variety was named after Rebecca's grandmother, Laura Stokes, and one named for her mother, Lillian Hannah Stokes. The family continues to love this landscape as they work diligently to maintain and improve a sampling of what the habitat

and working landscape was at one time in this portion of Central Florida.

Join us for a tour of the property on April 25, 2025. Register online at fls-tour-2025-04-25.eventbrite.com.

Ginger Feagle to Lead Florida Tree Farm Program



Ginger Feagle (right) with newly certified Tree Farm landowner, Kathleen Barber.

The Florida Tree Farm Program (FTFP) announces Ginger Feagle as the incoming president for a two-year term (2025-2026). Ginger has been a member of the FTFP's State Committee since 2016, representing private landowner interests in wildlife conservation by integrating habitat management during forestry operations. Ginger has recently served as the FTFP's vice president and has led the evaluation committee for Florida's Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year award, including the nomination for the 2022 National Tree Farm winner. Ginger brings her strength of identifying partnership opportunities and building professional relationships, especially when engaging with private landowners and foresters at events such as the Florida Forestry Association's Annual Meeting. Ginger also understands the necessity of balancing timber income with provisions for active property management, conservation, and family legacy.

In March, Ginger will represent the Florida Tree Farm Program at the American Forest Foundation's National Leadership Conference in Portland, Maine. This national event will gather leaders, landowners, and family forest advocates with other state programs so they can strengthen and grow conservation impact on family forest lands. Ginger will also be updated on tools and processes of the American Tree Farm System to help her lead an efficient state program.

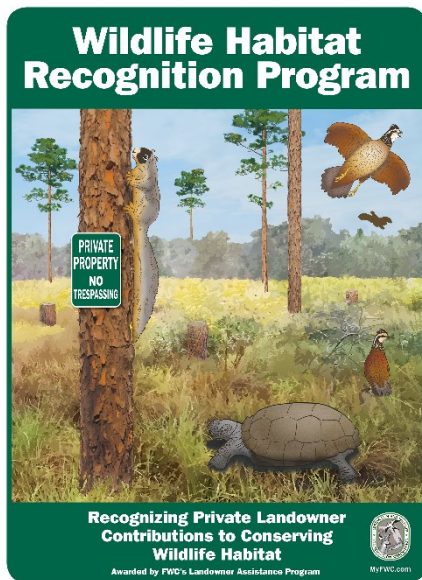
In her professional role as the Regional Coordinator for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Landowner Assistance Program, she works alongside private landowners and a team of biologists in North Central Florida who provide land management recommendations, coordinate educational workshops, connects to financial assistance, and increase landowner engagement. These activities are integral to the FTFP's mission to provide education and networking for family forest owners operating sustainable forestry practices with considerations for wood, water, wildlife, and recreation. During the next two years, Ginger plans to lead the FTFP by:

- Continuing to assist local tree farmers in the areas impacted by Hurricanes Idalia, Helene, and Milton through timber education and connection to partners with financial assistance.
- Increasing state committee engagement with certified Tree Farmers and Tree Farm Inspectors through communication and invitation to quarterly meetings (Glen St. Mary, Tallahassee, Quincy, and Perry).

- Encouraging nominations of landowners to be recognized as our Florida Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year. Nominations will begin in April with selection by June. A landowner tour will be celebrated in October during Working Forests Week.
- Continuing Tree Farm outreach efforts at festivals and events, including the Flatwoods Fire and Nature Festival and the Florida Forestry Association Annual Meeting.
- Continuing partnership with organizations such as the Florida Women Landowners Association to engage new Tree Farm participation, assist forestry education, and promote best management forestry operations.
- Continuing to support the Florida Land Steward quarterly newsletter's printing and USPS postage expenses so those who prefer a hand-held copy can be reached and the newsletter can be distributed at in-person workshops.
- Identifying grants and funding opportunities that will assist the FTFP in presenting workshop activities for landowners as well as Tree Farm Inspectors with their roles assisting landowners.

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Assistance and Recognition Programs for Landowners



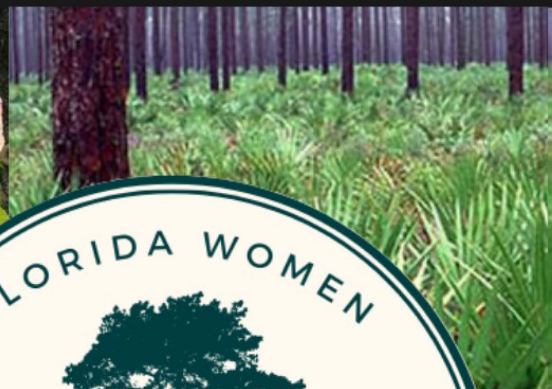
Private lands play a critically important role in the fate of Florida's vast wildlife resources. The efforts of private landowners to manage their land to benefit wildlife by providing food, water, shelter, and space will help ensure that future generations have the opportunity to experience and enjoy wildlife as much as, or even more than, we do today. To show appreciation for the accomplishments by landowners to conserve our state's wildlife, FWC's Landowner Assistance Program (LAP) created the **Wildlife Habitat Recognition Program**. This program honors landowners who have satisfactorily completed habitat management practices that benefit wildlife and/or their habitat by awarding them with a sign to display on their property and a certificate recognizing their habitat restoration efforts. For more information, please contact your region's FWC LAP Coordinator on the contact page.



The **Forest Stewardship Program**, developed by state forestry agencies, like the Florida Forest Service, provides educational and technical assistance for private landowners. Forestry and natural resource professionals cooperate to help private forest landowners develop and implement a plan designed to increase the economic value of their forestland while maintaining its wildlife habitat value and environmental integrity for future generations. Landowners who demonstrate good forest stewardship are recognized with a Stewardship Forest sign. For more information, please contact your Florida Forest Service county forester, consultant, or FWC LAP biologist. See the contact page.



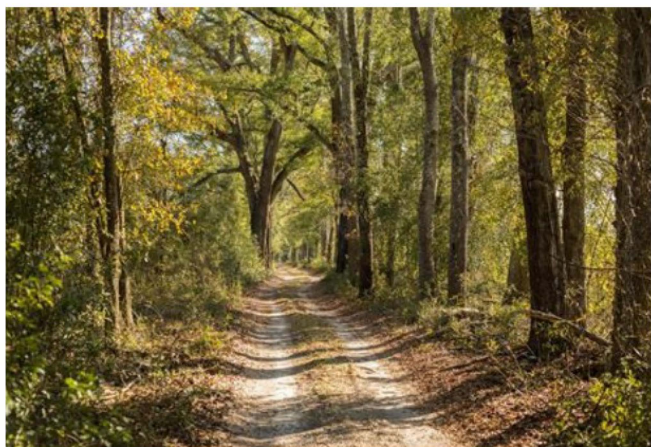
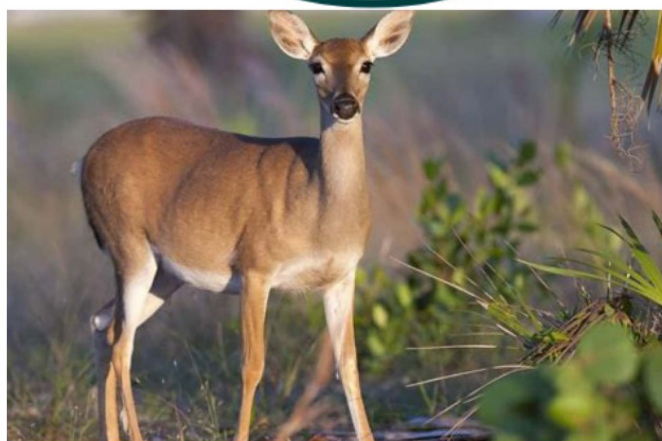
The **American Tree Farm System (ATFS)** Standards of Sustainability guide and ensure that forest benefits are enhanced and available for future generations. Landowners can enroll and be certified in the ATFS to improve access to sustainable forest product markets and educational opportunities. The Florida Tree Farm Program is a nonprofit organization and state affiliate of the ATFS that promotes sustainable forest management and educational outreach to private forest landowners. For more information, please contact your Florida Forest Service county forester, consultant, or FWC LAP biologist. See the contact page.



WOMEN LEARNING TOGETHER WOMEN SUPPORT EACH OTHER

Our goal is to provide opportunities for collaboration and education for all generations of women landowners in Florida. We share land stewardship resources through in-person events and virtual networking related to land ownership including farms, ranches, forests, recreation, and wildlife.

Whether you have 1 acre or 1,000 –
we are here for you!



LANDOWNER INITIATIVES

- Conservation
- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Wildlife
- Water Quality
- Financial Sustainability
- Alternative income streams
- Legacy

Don't wait, this property won't last long!

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SCAN ME

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Florida Forest Service

Silviculture Best Management Practices



SILVICULTURE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

Silviculture BMPs are the minimum standards necessary to protect our state's waterbodies and wetlands from the degradation and sedimentation that can sometimes occur because of erosion during and immediately following recent forestry operations. Silviculture BMPs should be applied on all bonafide ongoing forestry operations, especially those adjacent to waterbodies and wetlands, and may be enforced by federal, state, and local authorities through reference of regulatory statute or rule.

SILVICULTURE BMP COURTESY CHECKS

Silviculture BMP courtesy checks are available to give landowners, land managers, and loggers a "report card" on Silviculture BMP implementation for recent or ongoing forestry operations. This helps with future management planning as well as evaluating the performance of contractors on your property.

SILVICULTURE BMP SITE ASSESSMENTS

On-the-ground Silviculture BMP site assessments are available to discuss which Silviculture BMPs will apply to planned operations on a specific site. This helps with harvest plan development, road layout, mitigation of existing problem areas, etc.

SILVICULTURE BMP NOTICE OF INTENT

The Silviculture BMP Notice of Intent (Rule 5I-6 F.A.C.) is a one-time pledge that a landowner signs to indicate his or her intention to follow Silviculture BMPs on their property. Once a landowner has signed the Notice of Intent, he or she will become eligible to receive a *presumption of compliance* with state water quality standards during future bonafide ongoing forestry operations. This is very important if the landowner's property falls within an area covered by a Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Basin Management Action Plan for impaired waters.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

For information on the services listed above or any other services provided by the Florida Forest Service's Hydrology Section please visit www.fdacs.gov/bmps or contact:

Robin Holland
BMP Program Manager
Florida Forest Service
(352) 732-1781
Robin.Holland@FDACS.gov



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services



Forestry Wildlife Best Management Practices for State Imperiled Species



- Forestry Wildlife Best Management Practices for State Imperiled Species (WBMPs) were adopted into Florida Administrative Code (Rule 5I-8) on October 21, 2014.
- WBMPs were developed through a partnership between the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Florida Forest Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).
- WBMPs are **voluntary** practices designed as a practical approach for avoiding and minimizing the loss of **State Imperiled Species** due to silviculture operations.
- WBMP practices address the 16 State Imperiled Species which are considered to be potentially vulnerable to silviculture operations including ten aquatic species, two burrowing animals, and four nesting birds.
- WBMPs are designed to supplement the existing water quality-based Silviculture BMPs which already provide many valuable benefits to the conservation and management of fish and wildlife in Florida.
- Landowners and other forestry resource professionals can enroll in the voluntary program by completing a WBMP Notice of Intent. Those who do not wish to enroll will continue to be subject to all current laws and regulations regarding State Imperiled Species.
- Once enrolled, applicants who **properly implement** WBMPs will no longer be required to obtain a permit authorizing the incidental take of State Imperiled Species during bonafide ongoing forestry operations. In addition, they will not be subject to any fines or penalties associated with an incidental take of the State Imperiled Species covered by the WBMP Manual.
- WBMPs are not designed to facilitate wildlife habitat restoration or species recovery and expansion. Also, they do not address any Federally Listed Species. For information on Federally Listed Species, refer to FWC's online "Florida Wildlife Conservation Guide."
- For more information or to request a copy of the Forestry WBMP Manual and Notice of Intent contact:

Robin Holland
BMP Program Manager
Florida Forest Service
(352) 732-1781
Robin.Holland@FDACS.gov
www.fdacs.gov/bmps



5

Steps to Assistance

How to Get Assistance from NRCS
for Farms, Ranches and Forests

1 PLANNING

Visit your local NRCS field office to discuss your goals and work with staff on a conservation plan.

2 APPLICATION

With the help of NRCS, complete an application for financial assistance programs.

3 ELIGIBILITY

Find out if you're eligible for NRCS' variety of financial assistance programs.

4 RANKING

NRCS ranks applications according to local resource concerns.

5 IMPLEMENTING

Put conservation to work by signing a contract and implementing conservation practices.

Get Started with NRCS

Do you farm or ranch and want to make improvements to the land that you own or lease?

Natural Resources Conservation Service offers technical and financial assistance to help farmers, ranchers and forest landowners.

1 Planning

To get started with NRCS, we recommend you stop by your local NRCS field office.

We'll discuss your vision for your land.

NRCS provides landowners with free technical assistance, or advice, for their land. Common technical assistance includes: resource assessment, practice design and resource monitoring. Your conservation planner will help you determine if financial assistance is right for you.

2 Application

We'll walk you through the application process. To get started on applying for

financial assistance, we'll work with you:

- To fill out an AD 1026, which ensures a conservation plan is in place before lands with highly erodible soils are farmed. It also ensures that identified wetland areas are protected.
- To meet other eligibility certifications.

Once complete, we'll work with you on the application, or CPA 1200.

Applications for most programs are accepted on a continuous basis, but they're considered for funding in different ranking periods. Be sure to ask your local NRCS district conservationist about the deadline for the ranking period to ensure you turn in your application in time.

3 Eligibility

As part of the application process, we'll check to see if you are eligible.

To do this, you'll need to bring:

- An official tax ID (Social Security number or an employer ID)
- A property deed or lease agreement to show you have control of the property; and
- A farm tract number.

If you don't have a farm tract number, you can get one from USDA's Farm Service Agency. Typically, the local FSA office is located in the same building as the local NRCS office. You only need a farm tract number if you're interested in financial assistance.

4 Ranking

NRCS will take a look at the applications and rank them

according to local resource concerns, the amount of conservation benefits the work will provide and the needs of applicants.

5 Implementing

If you're selected, you can choose whether to sign the contract for the work to be done.

Once you sign the contract, you'll be provided standards and specifications for completing the practice or practices, and then you will have a specified amount of time to implement. Once the work is implemented and inspected, you'll be paid the rate of compensation for the work if it meets NRCS standards and specifications.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

To find out more, go to: www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted

FSA DOCUMENTS NEEDED FOR CUSTOMERS APPLYING FOR NRCS PROGRAMS

If you have not worked with the USDA before you will need to make an appointment with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) at your local USDA Service Center. To find your local office, visit www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator.

What to bring with you

Bring the following documentation:

- Proof of your control of the land you wish to enroll by providing a lease or a copy of the deed to the property.
- Parcel ID number from the County Property Appraiser site for locating the farm.
- Provide your Social Security or Employer Identification Number and contact information.
- For entities, partnerships, or joint operations you will need to provide information documenting those individuals with authority to represent the business.

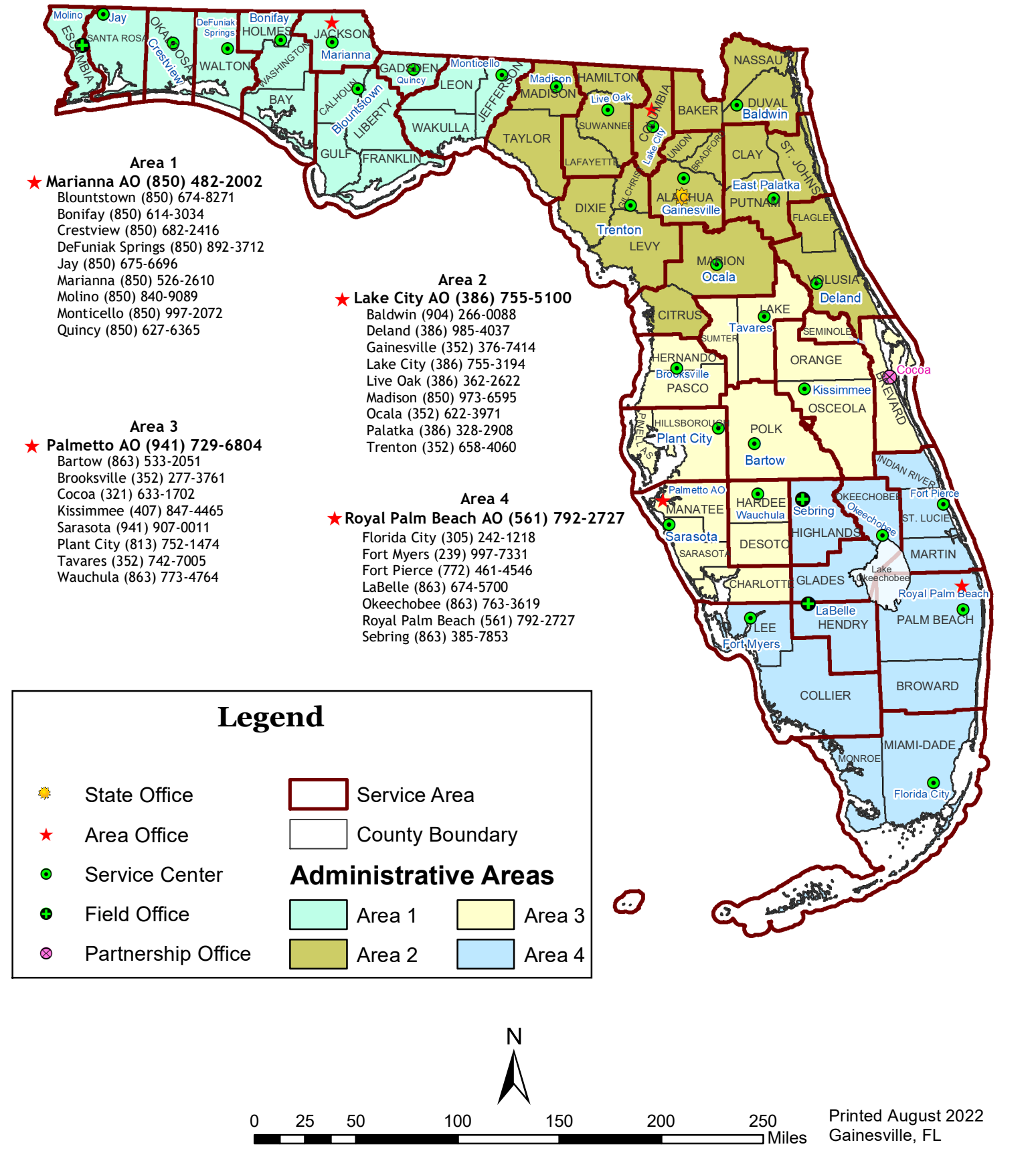
What you will need to complete for the Farm Service Agency

- **AD-2047 For Individuals and Entities – Form is required for all members of the entity.**
- **CCC-941 - Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) – Form is required for entity and all members of the entity.**
- **CCC-901 and CCC- 902 - Members' Information for entities and joint operations.**
- **AD-1026 - Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification – Form is required for all individuals, LLC and all its members, corporations and all its members with more than 20% shares.**

It takes time for the paperwork to be processed and additional information may be needed. Please start this process early in order to insure you are eligible prior to any program sign-up cut-off dates. If you apply for a USDA program and the system does not show you or your entity as eligible, your application will not be processed or funded.

USDA-NRCS ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS & LOCAL OFFICES

FLORIDA



Planting Southern Pines in Florida



Florida landowners have contributed vastly to the Southeast's planting of pines over many decades. Understanding the factors that affect pine seedling quality and survival will assure a more successful forest plantation, whether objectives focus on timber production, recreation, wildlife habitat, water quality protection, etc.

Seven pine species (*Pinus* spp.) are considered to be native to Florida. These species are loblolly pine (*P. taeda*), longleaf pine (*P. palustris*), shortleaf pine (*P. echinata*), slash pine (*P. elliottii*), sand pine (*P. clausa*), spruce pine (*P. glabra*), and pond pine (*P. serotina*), and each varies in the site conditions where it grows as well as in its commercial utility and availability.

The publication below discusses the importance of site selection and soils as they relate to each species, the landowners' objectives, and their target markets. This publication is a guide to facilitate selection of appropriate pine species and offers guidance on best practices for handling seedlings throughout all stages of tree planting.

Planting Southern Pines in Florida:

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FR456>



Longleaf Pine



Longleaf pine is a great choice for landowners interested in using prescribed fire to manage forests to accommodate multiple benefits such as wildlife habitat and timber. It's also a great choice for pine straw production on upland sites.

Longleaf Pine Regeneration:

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr064>

Genetically Improved Pine Stock

Landowners have many options in regenerating forest stands with genetically improved pine stock. Learn about genetically improved pines and see if they might be a good fit for your site and objectives.

Genetically Improved Pines for Reforesting Florida's Timberlands:

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr007>



Enhancing Habitat for Wildlife

Southern forests and ranges have the potential to provide productive wildlife habitat for a variety of species. Landowners interested in promoting wildlife must recognize that each wildlife species requires a specific set of habitat conditions. Animals will frequent your property depending on the condition, type, and variety of food and cover that are present.



Timber, livestock, and crop production objectives can be compatible with enhancement of wildlife habitat and diversity. However, some tradeoffs may be necessary because strategies that maximize commodity outputs are typically not the same as strategies that will provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species. For this reason, it is important to prioritize your objectives and decide where wildlife ranks relative to the commodities you produce in your land use planning.

Establishing and Maintaining Wildlife Food Sources:

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr062>



Providing Wildlife Cover: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr124>

Prescribed Fire

Prescribed burning is the carefully planned and directed use of fire to achieve land-management goals. This tool is used to achieve a variety of objectives; including restoring fire-dependent ecosystems, enhancing forage for cattle, improving wildlife habitat, preparing sites for reforestation, and reducing hazardous fuel loads. Prescribed burns achieve many benefits for the environment and for people, but they have the potential to impact the public via smoke. Smoke is a mixture of water vapor, carbon dioxide and combustion products, including tiny particles of organic matter.

The potential for harm from smoke can be reduced with the use of smoke-management techniques. The movement of smoke plumes can be modeled with maps or computer programs long before anyone strikes a match. This allows land managers to avoid impacts on smoke-sensitive areas by burning under weather conditions that minimize smoke problems. As a result of pre-planning and careful smoke management, smoke impacts from prescribed fires are generally far less detrimental than smoke impacts from a wildfire burning over the same area. It is extremely important to mitigate problems associated with smoke so we can continue to use this critically important land management tool.



Benefits of Prescribed Fire: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FR468>



Where there's Fire there's Smoke: Air Quality and Prescribed Fire in Florida: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FR058>

Cogongrass Control

Cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrical*) is a warm-season perennial grass species found throughout tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world. Native to Southeast Asia, cogongrass is an aggressive invasive plant that has spread to all continents except Antarctica and is considered among the worst problematic weeds in the world. In the United States, it is naturalized in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida,

Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, and Oregon. It was first accidentally introduced in the United States near Mobile Alabama in 1912 and subsequently intentionally introduced from the Philippines into Mississippi as a forage crop in 1921. Early regional introductions contributed to the establishment of cogongrass in the Southeast. Cogongrass is regulated as a federal noxious weed.



Control of cogongrass is difficult because it spreads in two ways: by extensive rhizome systems and by seeds. Cogongrass rhizomes can comprise more than 60% of the total plant biomass. The rhizomes support rapid re-growth following mowing or burning.

Control in Pine Forests

Chemical control is required. Glyphosate, imazapyr, and combinations of the two herbicides are most effective. Eradication requires multiple applications. In many instances, selective control of cogongrass without damage to desired vegetation is not possible, but where the canopy of shrubs and trees is above that of cogongrass, glyphosate sprays may be directed to cogongrass in the understory with fair selectivity to the taller vegetation. Imazapyr, however, used in the quantities and at the application frequencies necessary to eradicate cogongrass, will kill hardwood trees and shrubs.

Control in Hardwood Forests

To avoid injury to hardwood trees or shrubs in mixed pine-hardwood stands, glyphosate alone is commonly used at 3 to 4 lb ai/acre (3 to 4 quarts per acre for many common 4 lb ai/gallon product formulations), and selectivity is obtained by spraying cogongrass in the understory and avoiding any spray contact near the crowns of trees and shrubs. Imazapyr will kill hardwood trees and shrubs.

Controlling Invasive Plants in North Florida Forests (various species including cogongrass): <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FR133>



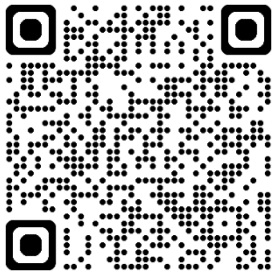
Biology and Control of Cogongrass in Southern Forests:
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr411>

Cogongrass Biology, Ecology, and Management in Florida Grazing Lands:
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/WG202>



Camellias

Native to Asia, the first camellia plants were brought from Europe to America in the late 1700s. Over the last 200 years, they have proven to be dependable additions to the southern landscape, where they grow and bloom with minimal care. Camellias flower in the fall and winter when few other plants are blooming. For the remainder of the year, their glossy, evergreen foliage, interesting forms and textures, relatively slow growth, and low maintenance make camellias excellent landscape plants worthy of more use.



Camellias at a Glance

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/EP002>

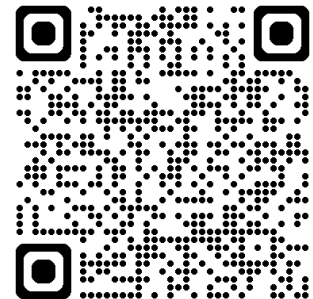
Beekeeping

Honey bees are known to be the strongest link in the chain between food producers and consumers. They contribute nearly \$20 billion to the crop industry by providing pollination services all over the United States, and Florida's honey industry is ranked among the top five in the nation. There are nearly 5,000 registered beekeepers in the state of Florida, managing approximately 630,000 colonies.



Unfortunately, high colony loss rates of honey bees have been reported throughout the world. Stressors, such as Varroa destructor, queen quality, and nutrition are just some of the reported factors associated with this decline. Researchers have been working to identify best management practices to mitigate these losses. All recommendations in IFAS Extension publications are based on scientific literature about honey bees in Florida and around the world.

Find publications about apiculture on AskIFAS:
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/beekeeping>



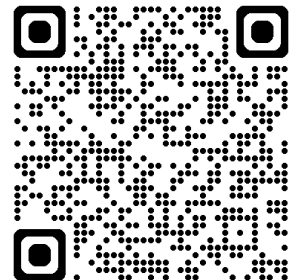
Citrus

One of the satisfactions that homeowners in Florida can have is to pick citrus fruits from their own trees. The varieties that may be grown vary with the size of the home grounds and with the climatic conditions of each location.

Citrus is a subtropical fruit tree and is limited to areas that do not regularly experience freezing temperatures. Like most plants, regular maintenance of irrigation, fertilization, weed control, and pest management procedures must be followed to obtain good growth and fruit production. Many types of citrus can be grown by the home gardener in Florida. Careful consideration should be given to site selection, choice of variety, nutrition, and cold protection.



Citrus Culture in the Home Landscape on AskIFAS:
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/HS132>



UF/IFAS Stewardship Publications



- [Planting Southern Pines in Florida](#)
- [Benefits of Prescribed Fire](#)
- [Assessment and Management of Hurricane Damaged Timberland](#)
- [Florida's Forest Stewardship Program: An Opportunity to Manage Your Land for Now and the Future](#)
- [Forest Resource Information on the Internet: Connecting to Today's Online Resources](#)
- [Genetically Improved Pines for Reforesting Florida's Timberlands](#)
- [Improving, Restoring, and Managing Natural Resources on Rural Properties in Florida: Sources of Financial Assistance](#)
- [Improving, Restoring, and Managing Wildlife Habitat in Florida: Sources of Technical Assistance for Rural Landowners](#)
- [Longleaf Pine Regeneration](#)
- [Marking First Thinnings in Pine Plantations: Potential for Increased Economic Returns](#)
- [Opportunities for Uneven-Aged Management in Second Growth Longleaf Pine Stands in Florida](#)
- [The Optimal Forest Management of an Even-Aged Stand: The Biological Rotation versus the Land Expectation Value](#)
- [Ownership Succession: Plan Now for the Future of Your Land](#)
- [Prepare Your Forest Property for Hurricane Season](#)
- [Selecting a Consulting Forester](#)
- [Steps to Marketing Timber](#)
- [Stewardship Ecosystem Services Study Series: Assessing Forest Water Yield and Regulation Ecosystem Services in the Lower Suwannee River Watershed, Florida](#)
- [Thinning Southern Pines—A Key to Greater Returns](#)
- [What if prescribed fire is not an option? An overview of alternative vegetation and fuel management treatments](#)
- [What Is in a Natural Resource Management Plan?](#)
- [What to Expect in a Forest Inventory](#)

See [**https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/**](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/) to access these and many more UF/IFAS Extension publications.





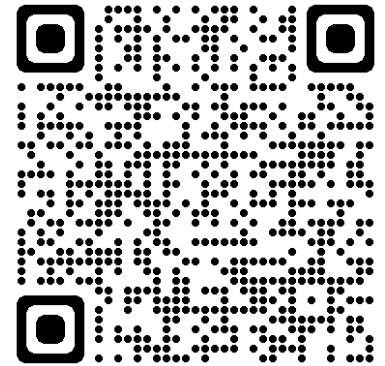
Forest Landowner Academy

Enroll Now!

Are you new to forestry and land management? Need a good primer on forest management concepts and next steps? This course is for you! The **Forest Landowner Academy** connects you with forest management experts at the University of Florida and delivers quality core educational content on forestry and multiple-use stewardship concepts.

The seven course modules include field and virtual classroom presentations on **understanding your forest resources, developing your management plan, timber management, marketing forest products, other forest enterprises such as pine straw and hunting leases, wildlife management, and planning for the future**. Each module includes an assessment where you can apply what you've learned to your land or situation and begin or continue planning and making contacts. The cost of the course is \$150. Those completing the course will earn a University of Florida Certificate.

This course is relevant for Florida landowners as well as those in the coastal plain regions of neighboring states. Landowners can build on this course as they receive information and attend educational events offered by the Florida Land Steward Program and other partners in Florida and neighboring states.



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Dr. Michael Andreu, mandreu@ufl.edu

<https://ifas-sfrc-for.catalog.instructure.com/courses/for-fla/>

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 28 evenly spaced horizontal black lines across its entire width, providing a guide for handwriting or typing. The paper itself is a clean, off-white color.

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This image shows a full page of blank white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a guide for writing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



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