

# Virginia Forest Landowner e-Update

**May 2024**

## **Featured Events**

### **Fifteen Minutes in the Forest**

- 12:15 every other Friday
- Watch archived videos on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube Premier](#)

### **Landowner Retreats**

- Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat
  - September 20-21
  - Providence Forge

### **Online Woodland Options for Landowners**

- July 2 - September 9
- [Syllabus](#)

### **Timber Cruising for Woodland Owners**

- August 16
- Raphine

Visit the [Events Calendar](#) for details!

### **Social Media**



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Good Morning Forest Update  
Subscribers,

This year the e-update is focusing on different aspects of sustainable forestry. The topic for May is [reforestation](#). Before a timber harvest takes place, you should have a plan for the next forest. Your plan will entail answering questions such as:

- Why are you conducting the timber harvest?
- What is (are) your management goal(s) for the future forest (e.g., timber production, wildlife habitat, restoration of diminished species)?
- What species will you grow (hardwoods or pine)?
- Will you rely on natural regeneration (from seeds, stump sprouts, and existing saplings)? or
- Will you have the site planted?
- What type of site preparation needs to happen to promote regeneration?
- What will you consider regeneration success?

You may not be able to answer these questions on your own. Fortunately, the forester who is helping you plan your timber harvest can. Talk to them about your management goals and ask for advice on how to achieve them. Cost share is available to help many landowners with the cost of reforestation.

**For pines:**

- [Virginia Sustainable Forestry Initiative State Implementation Committee](#)
- [Virginia Tree Farm Foundation](#)
- [Virginia Forestry Association](#)
- [Forest Stewardship Program](#)
- [USDA Forest Service](#)

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- [Reforestation of Timberlands](#)

## For hardwoods:

- [Hardwood Initiative Cost Share Program](#)
- [Riparian Forests for Landowners](#)
- [James River Buffer Program](#)

You can purchase seedlings from one of the Virginia Department of Forestry's [two seedling nurseries](#).

Successful reforestation efforts can take place on both large and small areas. For example, we have a hillside on our land that had been hayed for years. The farmer we lease to stopping cutting it and, not surprisingly, autumn olive started taking over. I acquired some pine seedlings that were left over from a tree planting workshop. They included Virginia's Best loblolly pine, shortleaf pine, and some loblolly-pitch pine hybrids. We (and by we, I mean my husband) hand planted these trees on about 5 acres 14 years ago. Survival has been great for all three species (including the way off-site loblolly pine); for growth, shortleaf pine is the winner by far. It loves our limestone soils. It's been wonderful seeing these pines fill in and shade out some of the autumn olive while providing winter cover for wildlife. This successful pine planting project is helping us reach two of our management goals - creating and maintaining wildlife habitat and improving forest health (by reducing nonnative invasive species)!

## In Other News

1. Our new publication: [An Overview of Forest Carbon Credit Programs in Virginia](#) is available!
2. Researchers at Virginia Tech are recruiting private owners of hardwood forests that:
  - are least 10 acres and

- are located along or west of Virginia's Blue Ridge.

Woodland owners will be asked to:

- use an online tool to learn about crop tree release, a management strategy to improve the health and productivity of hardwood forests;
- conduct a basic tree inventory on 1 acre of their hardwood forest;
- mark (using flagging) individual crop trees (to increase growth and improve health);
- flag trees competing with the crop trees.

Upon completion of these tasks, the research team from Virginia Tech will visit these properties to determine how well the tool was able to teach crop tree release techniques to woodland owners. Woodland owners will also complete a short online survey to share opinions and suggestions about the online tool and their experience with crop tree release.

**If you are interested, please complete this [short survey](#) by May 7<sup>th</sup> and one of our researchers will contact you.**

### **[Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program Events Calendar](#)**

#### **Featured Events**

#### **[Fifteen Minutes in the Forest](#)**

Fifteen Minutes in the Forest videos are shown every other Friday at 12:15 on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube Premier](#)

- May 3 – Wild Turkeys in the Timber
- May 17 – Wildlife Plants of Virginia's Coastal Plain
- May 31 – Simple Tools to Measure Your Forest
- June 14 – To be Announced
- [Elier](#)

- [Watch archived on our YouTube Channel](#)

### **Landowner Retreats**

Landowner Retreats are co-hosted by the Virginia Department of Forestry and Virginia Cooperative Extension. Retreats provide information on hardwood and pine forest management, legacy planning, management planning, and more. They combine classroom, field trip, and hands-on activities to teach concepts of sustainable woodland and wildlife management.

- Beginning Woodland Owner Retreat
  - September 20-21
  - [New Kent Forestry Center](#), Providence Forge
  - Registration opens July

### **Online Woodland Options for Landowners**

This 10-week self-paced online course teaches the fundamentals of forest management. Upon completion of the class, you can have a draft forest management plan. The class wraps up with an optional end-of-the-semester hands-on field trip. Registration fee includes 5 books.

- June 5 - August 11
- Online
- \$55/family
- [Syllabus](#)
- Register [online](#)
- Register [by mail](#)

### **Timber Cruising for Woodland Owners**

Hiring a professional forester is the best way to ensure an accurate accounting of your timber volume and value. And it's also important for you to understand where those numbers come from. This

hands-on class will teach you why and how timber cruises are conducted.

- August 16
- McCormick Farm, Raphine
- \$45/person - includes lunch, angle gauge, and Biltmore stick
- Registration opens in June

**[Visit the Blue Ridge PRISM website for programs on nonnative invasives](#)**

Blue Ridge PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) is surveying a broad group of participants to better understand what invasive plant species have been or are becoming, a problem for Virginia homeowners, farmers, commercial property owners, and natural area stewards. *We need your help to identify which invasive plants you are seeing locally and are most concerned about.* Please fill out the [Invasive Plants of Virginia Survey](#).

*All the best!*

*Jennifer*

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