Reforestation of Timberlands Program

Cost Assistance for Growing Pines

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Trees are good for you and good for Virginia. In addition to their monetary value, trees provide useful wood, jobs and homes for wildlife. Trees hold the soil, yield fresh air and are simply beautiful. If you have land (cutover land; worn out fields) that's just not producing for you, an investment in pine trees can yield many benefits. And you don't have to go it alone. Financial assistance is available for growing pines through the Virginia Reforestation of Timberlands program.

Follow these three steps for a successful new pine forest:

- **Plan It:** Start with a plan for your land. Contact the Virginia Department of Forestry to discuss your goals, your land and your options. Then, develop a plan for your forest to help you meet your goals and to apply for assistance.

- **Prep It:** Pines need lots of sun and room to grow. Prepare the land first so that the new trees will thrive. Just like a farmer always prepares the land before planting a crop, you need to do the same for your crop of pines. It will make a big difference when you harvest the crop, and your forester can show you how.

- **Plant It:** Today's pine seedlings come from trees that are the "best of the best." They grow much faster, taller and straighter than trees in the wild. VDOF's nurseries take great care to produce high-quality seedlings that are just right for growing conditions here in Virginia. Your forester will help you find a tree planting crew or show you how to plant.

The Reforestation of Timberlands (RT) program has been helping Virginia landowners grow pines for more than 40 years. It can cost from $70 to $200 per acre to put in a crop of pines. The RT program reimburses landowners for a portion of the costs associated with getting pines started right. Your VDOF Forester can help you apply for the forest management practices that are best suited for your property.

The forest management projects and payment rates for this year are:

#1: Tree Planting – loblolly pine .....$25 per acre

#2: Tree Planting – other pines.....$48 per acre

#3: Site Preparation – mechanical.....$60 per acre

#4: Site Preparation – herbicides .....$70 per acre

#5: Site Preparation – prescribed burning.....$35 per acre

#6: Herbicide Release by Air – all pines except white pines (competition control).....$22 per acre

#7: Herbicide Release by Air – white pines (competition control).....$45 per acre

#8: Herbicide Release by Ground – all pines (competition control).....$45 per acre

More than one project type may be used if recommended by VDOF Forester (maximum of three projects per parcel).

Assistance shall not exceed 100 acres per tract (a single property according to county records); 100 acres per program year (July 1 – June 30) per landowner (tax identification entity), and 75% of the total cost of all projects.

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