

Tips for managing your longleaf

Tips based on "Management Checklist" articles from The Longleaf Alliance's quarterly magazine *The Longleaf Leader*.

	FALL	WINTER
Planting Longleaf	Plant Longleaf	
	It's never too early to plant longleaf if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site is prepared There is adequate soil moisture Seedlings are available Planting crew is available 	Keep an eye on planting depth! For containerized longleaf, expose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Top of the plug on cutover sites. 1 inch of the plug above the soil surface on scalped sites.
	Chemical Site Prep <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After harvest, ensure adequate resprouting before applying fall herbicide. If in doubt, wait a year. Apply foliar active herbicides to pasture grasses before first frost (e.g., glyphosate/Roundup®/Accord®). 	Inspect Longleaf Plantings <p>Evaluate one year survival in young stands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine adequate stocking. Wait until after the first frost, so the grass stage longleaf is easily seen.
Competition Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soil active herbicides need at least 60-days to breakdown before planting. (e.g., imazapyr/Arsenal®/Chopper®) Late application of triclopyr/Garlon® targets waxy leaf competitors while reducing impacts to groundcover. 	Chemical Hardwood Control <p>Basal bark and stem injection herbicide treatments to control unwanted trees/shrubs are typically most effective during the dormant season.</p>
	Mechanical Site Prep <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scalp agricultural sites, staying on the contour. Leave waterbars in the furrow and pick the scalper up regularly to reduce erosion. Do NOT plant seedlings directly into the subsoiled/ripped furrow. 	Walk the Line <p>Property boundaries should be well-marked with signs or paint. Winter is an excellent time to do your annual inspection and re-mark boundaries as needed.</p>
	Site Prep Burns <p>Conduct a site prep burn prior to planting to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove logging slash Stimulate early growth by increasing available nutrients Decrease potential hot spots in subsequent burns. 	Fuel Reduction Burns <p>Conduct winter fuel reduction burns in mature or sapling stands.</p> <p>Burning Young Longleaf</p> <p>Introduce fire in young longleaf stands to help control other pines & woody competition.</p>
Prescribed Fire	Clean up or establish fire lanes for prescribed fires.	
	Order Native Seed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase seed from companies that sell Southeastern sources. Some seed may also be collected from nearby donor sites. 	Plant Native Groundcover <p>Plant in late winter to take advantage of seasonal rains. If sowing seed,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase seeding rates by 25%. Some species require cold stratification for germination.
Groundcover	Order Native Seed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase seed from companies that sell Southeastern sources. Some seed may also be collected from nearby donor sites. 	Plant Native Groundcover <p>Plant in late winter to take advantage of seasonal rains. If sowing seed,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase seeding rates by 25%. Some species require cold stratification for germination.

	SPRING	SUMMER
Planting Longleaf	Order Seedlings	
	Order seedlings early! Sometimes nurseries sell out of preferred seed sources or entire inventories. Pre-order if possible.	N.C. Forest Service Claridge Nursery accepts longleaf seedling orders starting in July. buynctrees.com
	Inspect Longleaf Plantings <p>Assess recent winter tree plantings to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check for early mortality from freeze damage or other factors. Uncover and/or lift viable containerized longleaf seedlings that were planted too deep. 	Stay-in-Touch <p>Keep in contact with your forester!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> He or she is KEY for successful forest management. Plan early if interested in cost-share opportunities.
Competition Control	Chemical Hardwood Control <p>Apply hexazinone around bud-break as site prep or to control oaks. Hexazinone is tough on oaks but easy on many understory species.</p>	Control Invasive Species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spray invasive species such as: kudzu, bermudagrass, bahiagrass, and fescue. Some problematic grasses and weeds require repeated treatments (spray, mow, and/or disking). Look out for invasive COGONGRASS!
	Release Seedlings <p>Assess stands for herbaceous competition to determine the need to spray or mow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For chemical release, know your soil pH before applying Oust® or Oustar®. Banded spraying is often just as effective as broadcast spraying. 	Mechanical Site Prep <p>Subsoil or rip sites with hardpans to give plenty of time for the soil to settle prior to planting.</p>
	Growing Season Burns	
Prescribed Fire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control unwanted pines and/or hardwood stems that are too large to effectively target with winter burns. Promote native plants with growing season fire. For example, wiregrass produces more viable seed when burned in the spring or summer. Conduct a seed bed preparation burn in longleaf stands with good developing cone crops in spring or summer. This provides a clean seed bed for germination in the fall. 	
	Clean up or establish fire lanes for prescribed fires.	
Groundcover	Plant Native Groundcover <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time planting to take advantage of seasonal rains. Control emerging weedy competition as needed. 	Order Native Seedlings/Plugs <p>N.C. Forest Service Claridge Nursery accepts native grass seedling orders starting in July. buynctrees.com</p>