

Does your Forest Qualify?

If you own at least 10 acres of forestland and no more than 10,000 acres, your forestland may qualify for certification now. You and your property must meet the American Forest Foundation Standards of Sustainability which include:

- Your forest management complies with federal, state, and local laws.
- You have a written forest management plan.
- You reforest harvested areas.
- Your forestry practices maintain or enhance the environment (including air, water, soil, and site quality).
- Your forest management contributes to the conservation of fish, wildlife, and biodiversity.
- You consider and minimize the visual impact of forestry practices.
- Your management activities recognize historical, biological, archeological, cultural, or geological sites.
- Your timber harvests and forest operations are conducted according to your management plan and in consideration of other forest values (water quality, wildlife, regeneration, special sites, etc.).

The lack of a qualified written management plan is one of the main reasons forest owners do not qualify for certification. If you do not have a written management plan, or otherwise do not meet the standards for certification, you can enter the program as a Pioneer Tree Farm. As a Pioneer Tree Farm, you have until the next scheduled reinspection to meet the standard.



Managing a Tree Farm can be a family affair.



Tree Farmers manage hardwood forests, as well as pines.



You can become a
Mississippi Tree Farmer


Mississippi Forestry Association

620 North State Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39202
Phone: 601.354.4936
Fax: 601.354.4937
Website: www.msforestry.net

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American Tree Farm System

The American Tree Farm System (ATFS) is a program sponsored nationally by the American Forest Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit organization promoting the sustainable management of forests through education and outreach to private forest landowners. Founded in 1941, ATFS is the oldest and largest forest conservation, certification and advocacy program in the United States. For more information, check the ATFS website, www.treefarmssystem.org.

The program operates through State Tree Farm Committees in 46 states in partnership with over four thousand volunteer professional foresters from industry, government, and consulting firms. State Committees make arrangements for foresters to inspect and certify Tree Farms and then reinspect the land periodically. These on-the-ground inspections determine whether the property meets the standards and guidelines established by the American Forest Foundation.

The Mississippi Tree Farm Program

In Mississippi, the program is sponsored by the Mississippi Forestry Association (MFA). MFA's Tree Farm Committee includes a statewide team of more than 200 trained inspectors. They are all volunteers. These volunteer inspectors are professional foresters representing forest industries, the Mississippi Forestry Commission, consulting forestry firms, Mississippi State University and other agencies and organizations.

Tree Farmers

Tree Farmers manage their forestland for pride, profit, and pleasure. They are committed to excellence in forest stewardship. They help meet our nation's growing need for wood and paper products while doing their part to sustain our environment.

Benefits of being a Tree Farmer

- Tree Farmers receive a Tree Farm certificate and sign.
- Tree Farmers receive a complimentary issue to *Tree Farmer Magazine*.
- Tree Farmers are eligible to compete in local, state, regional and national Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year contests.
- Tree Farmers are invited to the annual National Tree Farmer Convention, and local conferences, field days, workshops, and seminars that will help them become even better forest stewards.
- Tree Farmers earn the right to display the diamond-shaped green and white Tree Farm sign on their property.
- Forest products companies that participate in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative recognize Tree Farms as a source of certified wood, positioning America's Tree Farmers as preferred suppliers to forest industry.



The Tree Farm Sign is the sign of sustainable forestry.



How to become certified?

- Complete the attached application form.
- Mail it to the Mississippi Forestry Association.
- We will notify Tree Farm Inspectors in your area (county where property is located).
- We will send you a list, including contact information, of Tree Farm Inspectors in your area.
- You and a local Tree Farm Inspector will schedule a visit to your property.
- If your forest qualifies, the Tree Farm Inspector will submit a inspection report to the State Tree Farm committee. A copy is also sent to the national office of ATFS.
- You will receive a Tree Farm Certificate and be offered an opportunity to display a Tree Farm sign.
- If your forest does not qualify, the inspecting forester will advise you on the steps necessary for you to meet the Tree Farm Standard.

Tree Farm Application

If you would like to become a Certified Tree Farmer, please complete the following application and mail it to the address of the back of this application.

Date of this application _____, 20 ____

Your Name _____

Your Mailing Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Location of the forestland you want inspected:
Section _____ Township _____ Range _____

Physical Location (# or name of road, highway)

Please attach a copy of the legal description of your property, if possible.

Acres of forestland in tract to be inspected _____

Do you have a written management plan?
 Yes No

If you are an absentee owner (you live out-of-state) and cannot meet with a Tree Farm Inspector on the property, please provide the following information for a person who can show the property to an inspector.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Your Signature _____