

MU Guide

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Forestry assistance for landowners

Carol B. Trokey, The School of Natural Resources

"Just how much are those trees on my woodlot worth?"

"Is cost-share money available to help me carry out some woodland management practices?"

If you're a landowner, you may have questions such as these. Throughout Missouri, several organizations, associations and individuals can help you find publications, technical advice, educational programs and financial assistance to help you manage your woodlands.

Start with your local University Extension center, usually located in your county seat. An extension specialist will assist you or help you find the appropriate agency or individual for your land management decisions. The following descriptions of agencies and associations will give you an idea of some of the assistance available.

State Forester's Office
Missouri Department of Conservation
P.O. Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102
314/751-4115

Forestry Division

Contact the State Forester's office or look in your telephone directory under Missouri State offices for the forestry district near you.

The Missouri Department of Conservation, through its Forestry Division, offers free technical advice and services to landowners. The state is divided into 17 forestry districts. Professional foresters in each district can give on-the-ground advice and assistance in:

- Tree planting
- Species selection
- Woodland management
- Fuelwood cutting
- Timber stand improvement
- Timber sales and tax treatment of these sales
- Harvesting and marketing
- Wildfire protection
- Insect and disease detection
- Woodland wildlife management

Private landowners and wood industries can also get assistance with using and marketing timber products.

Foresters will prepare management plans and give advice on available financial assistance programs. If you are a landowner, you can receive cost-share payments for specific forestry practices, such as timber stand improvement and tree planting. (See section on the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.)

The Forest Cropland Program is designed to increase production of forest crops by encouraging better management and protection of privately owned forest lands. To be classified as forest croplands, timber tracts must be at least 20 acres in size and valued below a certain dollar figure per acre. Landowners participating in this program will receive a significant reduction in property taxes by agreeing to follow an approved management plan for 25 years. The Department of Conservation reimburses counties to help offset revenue lost through this program.

George O. White State Forest Nursery

The Forestry Division operates the State Forest Nursery at Licking. You can purchase tree and shrub seedlings at minimal cost for conservation plantings on private lands. Obtain order forms at your local Department of Conservation office, University Extension center, or Soil and Water Conservation District office. You can order from November through mid-February on a first-come, first-served basis.

Wildlife Division

Wildlife service biologists, located in district offices across the state, will give free advice about developing and managing wildlife habitat on your land. They'll help you find areas for food plots, brush cover or ponds.

Fisheries Division

Fisheries management biologists in district offices throughout Missouri will offer advice about establishing and managing ponds. The Department of

Conservation will stock your farm pond with fish and assist you with farm pond problems and questions.

Protection Division

Conservation agents are assigned to every Missouri county and can provide specific forestry information or refer you to appropriate management personnel. In addition to working with landowners in wildlife habitat programs and inspecting ponds for fish stocking, conservation agents enforce wildlife regulations and can provide assistance with investigation of trespass and forest arson problems.

**Missouri Department
of Natural Resources**
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102
314/751-3332

The Department of Natural Resources regulates standards for air, water, minerals and energy. It also administers the extensive system of state parks and historic sites in Missouri. Land Survey staff members restore original public land survey corners to ensure accurate location of property boundaries. DNR's soil and water conservation program promotes good farming practices to prevent erosion and runoff. The staff helps counties form soil and water conservation districts to encourage watershed protection and proper land management. (See next section.)

**Agricultural Stabilization
and Conservation Service**
555 Vandiver Drive
Columbia, MO 65201
314/875-5201

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) conducts two programs for cost-sharing forestry practices: the Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) and the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP).

FIP is a cost-sharing program that encourages landowners to plant trees and perform timber stand improvement work for timber production and other related forest resources. ACP provides cost-sharing opportunities enabling farmers to carry out conservation and environmental protection practices that result in long-term public benefits. Forestry practices are included.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is administered by the ASCS. Eligible land can be planted to trees and wildlife cover to reduce erosion potential.

You can discuss eligibility requirements and fill out applications for these programs at the county ASCS office where your farm is located.

Missouri Soil and Water Districts' Commission
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102
314/751-4932

The Missouri Soil and Water Districts' Commission develops statewide resource conservation programs. These programs are administered locally by county SWDCs (housed with the USDA Soil Conservation Service).

Currently, a state-funded Soil and Water Conservation cost-share program offers financial incentives to agricultural landowners if they install erosion control projects and practices. A Soil and Water Conservation loan interest-share program offers rebates to landowners for authorized conservation projects. Eligible projects for either program include establishment or protection of woodlands.

For more information, contact local SWDC office.

Missouri Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 630
Jefferson City, MO 65102
314/751-3376

The Missouri Department of Agriculture licenses and regulates applicators of pesticides. It also conducts surveys, with the assistance of other state and federal agencies, to locate and control the spread of serious insect pests and plant diseases.

The department establishes preservative retention standards for treated timber products. It also helps pecan and other nut growers, fish farmers, and produce growers market their products.

The School of Natural Resources
Extension Forester
University of Missouri
1-30 Agriculture Building
Columbia, MO 65211
314/882-7242

As the state's land grant institution, the University of Missouri has three functions: teaching, research and extension. The School of Natural Resources offers undergraduate and graduate programs in forest resource management, forest recreation, urban forestry, industrial forestry, and fisheries and wildlife. Faculty research focuses on the natural resource problems Missouri landowners face.

The goal of the school's extension staff is to transfer research information to users. Extension specialists at the University provide technical information to county extension staff and landowners. They also present educational programs about renewable natural resources to landowners, industry, professionals, and 4-H and youth organizations.

**United States Department of Agriculture
U.S. Forest Service
Mark Twain National Forest
401 Fairgrounds Road
Rolla, MO 65401
314/364-4621**

The U.S. Forest Service manages the federal lands of the Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri, providing the multiple benefits of timber, recreation, watershed protection, grazing and wildlife.

The staff conducts research on oak culture and management. The Forest Service cooperates on programs designed to benefit private woodland owners.

**Soil Conservation Service
555 Vandiver Drive
Columbia, MO 65202
314/875-5212**

Soil Conservation Service staff members provide technical assistance and information about soil and water conservation. They also prepare soil conservation plans and maps for SCS cooperators.

To qualify for many kinds of SCS assistance, landowners must sign a cooperative agreement with their local Soil and Water Conservation District to protect soil and water resources. (See section on Soil and Water Districts' Commission.)

Check your telephone directory under U.S. Government for your local SCS office.

**American Tree Farm Program
Missouri State Tree Farm Committee
c/o Missouri Forest Products Association
611 E. Capitol, Suite 1
Jefferson City, MO 65101
314/634-3252**

The Tree Farm Program is a national program sponsored by wood-using industries and coordinated by the American Forest Council to promote sound forest management on privately owned woodlands. To qualify as a tree farm, your woodlands must be:

- Privately owned
- Ten acres or more
- Managed for production of timber and forest products
- Protected from fire, insects, disease and grazing.

You can have a forester inspect your woodlands to help you develop a management plan and to determine if your woods qualify for the tree farm system. Owners of approved woodlands receive a green and white Tree Farm sign to post on their land and receive woodland management information.

Every year, Missouri Tree Farmers are recognized for wise forest management through the State Tree Farm awards. Contact the State Tree Farm Committee

or your local forester for more information.

**Missouri Christmas Tree
Producers Association
Rt. 2 Box 250
Harrisonville, MO 64701
816/887-2433**

The Missouri Christmas Tree Producers Association is a nonprofit organization of Christmas tree growers and technical persons dedicated to promoting the interests of the Christmas tree growing industry in Missouri.

Objectives include advancing the production of high quality Christmas trees, promoting research related to Christmas tree production, keeping members informed about current research findings, conducting educational meetings and tours of successful Christmas tree plantations, sharing information and experiences among members, and encouraging the use of natural Christmas trees. Members receive the Midwest magazine *Christmas Trees* and may join the National Christmas Tree Association.

**The Walnut Council
5603 W. Raymond St., Suite "O"
Indianapolis, IN 46241
317/244-3312**

and Missouri Chapter, The Walnut Council

The Walnut Council includes walnut growers, researchers, foresters, and walnut buyers and manufacturers. The common interest of these individuals is growing and using black walnut. Landowners can exchange ideas and discuss problems. They can also obtain information about planting, growing and tending black walnut trees for nut, lumber and veneer crops.

As a member of the national Walnut Council, you receive automatic membership in the Missouri Chapter.

**Missouri Nut Growers Association
c/o Marvin L. Barrow, Secretary/Treasurer
Rt. 1
Nevada, MO 64772**

The Missouri Nut Growers Association is a nonprofit organization of pecan, walnut, hickory and other nut growers. The common interest of all these individuals is growing and promoting Missouri-grown nuts.

Members can exchange ideas, tour nut groves and plantations, obtain information about planting and growing nut trees, and keep informed about current research finds. Meetings are held four times a year, usually at a grower's farm.

Forestry assistance chart for landowners

Organization	Publications/ Education	Technical Assistance	Financial Assistance	Contract Services	Marketing Assistance	Insect & Disease Identification	Tree Planting Stock
University Extension ¹	✓				✓	✓	
Missouri Department of Conservation ¹	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Missouri Department of Natural Resources	✓	✓					
Soil and Water Districts' Commission			✓				
Missouri Department of Agriculture	✓				✓		
U.S.Forest Service	✓						
Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service	✓		✓				
Soil Conservation Service	✓	✓					
Private Consulting Forester ²		✓		✓	✓	✓	
Missouri Forest Products Assn. ³	✓				✓		
Missouri Christmas Tree Producers Association ³	✓				✓		
Tree Farm Program	✓						
National Walnut Council ³	✓						
Missouri Nut Growers Assn. ³	✓				✓		

¹Free services. ²Fee; services usually at more intensive level than public foresters. ³Membership fee.

Missouri Consulting Foresters' Association 611 E. Capitol, Suite 2A Jefferson City, MO 65101

Private consulting foresters furnish a variety of forest management activities on a fee basis. Services include woodland management plans, timber appraisals, forest and shade tree damage appraisals, marking timber, reforestation, timber stand improvement, marketing and sale supervision, surveying, mapping, and other services. Consultants can provide these services at a more intensive level and can usually spend more time with you than can public foresters.

You can get a listing of the consulting foresters in the state from the state forester, the extension forester or the Missouri Consulting Foresters' Association.

Missouri Forest Products Association 611 E. Capitol, Suite 1 Jefferson City, MO 65101 314/634-3252

The Missouri Forest Products Association (MFPA) provides services to sawmill owners, loggers, wood products manufacturers, and forest landowners. You can receive information and services relating to timber stand improvement, timber sale contracts, markets, insurance, waste use and legislation. MFPA is a co-sponsor of the Missouri Tree Farm program. The association helped pass the forest cropland law and cooperates in a market report on log values.



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