

Reforestation

Plan for reforestation while clean up plans are being made. Many areas may have large amounts of debris and be best suited to limited entry practices such as prescribed burning, natural regeneration, or aerial seeding. Plan activities with your forestry consultant or MFC forester. Consider cost share and tax credit options. Vendors, seed, and seedlings may need to be arranged immediately to allow for reforestation this winter. Loggers may be able to provide some road clearing and site preparation work while they are salvaging downed timber.

Markets are likely to recover and prosper as demand for wood increases to rebuild damaged areas. Plan for shortages of seedlings and vendor services.

Useful Websites

Mississippi Forestry Commission – www.mfc.state.ms.us

Mississippi State Extension Service – www.msucare.com

USDA Forest Service – www.fs.fed.us

Mississippi Forestry Association – www.msforestry.net

Timber Tax information - www.timbertax.org

Forest Insects and Disease - www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/

Fire Safety for your home - www.firewise.org

Mississippi Loggers Association - <http://msloggers.org/>

The Mississippi Forestry Commission looks forward to serving you as we rebuild our lives and our forests.

Please contact us with suggestions, comments, and questions.

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The Mississippi Forestry Commission provides equal opportunity and services to all individuals regardless of disability, race, age, religion, color, gender, creed, national origin, or political affiliation.

Mississippi Landowner's Guide



Working with
Timber Affected by
Hurricane Katrina

Disposing of Debris

Downed trees and woody debris that will not be salvaged should be transported to the public road right-of-way if possible. Logs should be left in the longest length that can be transported to the road and separated for salvage operations. Woody debris should be kept separate from construction materials and food products.

Do not burn debris. Hazardous fuels conditions exist due to extensive storm damage. Burning may ignite wildfires

- Contact your local office of the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) or check <http://msforestry.proboards49.com/index.cgi>
- Beware of unsolicited offers, bargain deals, and out-of state companies
- Timber is a commodity. Sign a written agreement prior to work occurring. Sample contracts are available at www.mfc.state.ms.us, or through your local office of the MFC.
- Ask for proof of liability insurance and workmen's compensation. Phone the insurance company to confirm currency.
- Ask for references from other jobs and check them.
- Get more than one bid for your timber, if possible.
- Be sure a clear understanding is reached on site condition after the job is done
- Secure a performance bond up front

Salvage

If timber is standing consider postponing salvage operations until market conditions improve. Downed timber must be salvaged as soon as possible to provide maximum return. The following priorities should be established:

1. The timber which has the highest product value such as sawtimber and veneer;
2. The timber which is easiest to cut such as close to the road and/or all laying in one direction;
3. The timber which is most perishable (sawtimber and veneer).
Note that trees in jack straw jumbles are extremely dangerous to log or work in and should be site prepared and reforested by the simplest means possible. Be aware that salvage operations bring little revenue even for the higher value products.

Product	Harvest within	Comments
Veneer and lumber	4-6 weeks	Blue stain if delay
Framing lumber	3-4 months	Kiln dry
Decorative boards	12 months	Kiln dry
Posts	4-6 weeks	Blue stain will affect toughness and ability to treat
Poles, pilings	Not recommended	
Pulp, chipboard	12 months	Mix with sound wood
Fuelwood	12 months	Low moisture

Fungi and insects degrade downed timber rapidly. The following guidelines can be followed for salvage operations:

Compensation for Loss

Insurance, tax credits, and other assistance may be available depending on your circumstances, location, and eligibility. To maintain the best chance of qualifying for assistance you should:

- Keep copies of newspapers or other written evidence that the disaster affected your area;
- Photograph damage;
- Document estimates, descriptions, and pertinent information;
- Stay in touch with local, State, and Federal agency representatives, as well as insurance companies and relief organizations.

Casualty loss may be claimed on taxes under certain circumstances. Consult your tax accountant for expectations and requirements. A professional forestry consultant should prepare an assessment of the amount of damage.

Salt & Wind Tolerant Trees

Hurricane winds can carry saltwater inland for a considerable distance. The leaves on trees saturated with saltwater turn brown and give the appearance of being burned. Most of these trees will not die and should not be cut. Check trees in the spring for signs of insects and disease, since defoliation may cause stress. Trees with bark beetles should be removed. The table below lists resistance ability of various tree species. Table is listed in descending order from most to least resistant.

Flood tolerant	Breakage	Uprooting	Salt
Baldcypress	Live Oak	Live Oak	Live Oak
Pondcypress	Palm	Palm	Palm
Tupelo-gum	Baldcypress	Baldcypress	Sweetgum
Sweetbay	Pondcypress	Pondcypress	Water Oak
Willow	Sweetgum	Tupelo-gum	Sycamore
Sweetgum	Tupelo-gum	Redcedar	Baldcypress
Sycamore	Dogwood	Sweetgum	Pondcypress
River Birch	Magnolia	Sycamore	Southern Red Oak
Cottonwood	Sweetbay	Longleaf Pine	Magnolia
Green Ash	Southern Red Oak	Southern Red Oak	Tupelo-gum
Red Maple	Water oak	Magnolia	Sweetbay
Pecan	Sycamore	Slash Pine	Hickory
Mulberry	Longleaf Pine	Loblolly Pine	Pecan
American Elm	Slash Pine	Sweetbay	Redcedar
Persimmon	Loblolly Pine	Water Oak	Red Maple
Silver Maple	Redcedar	Red Maple	Holly
Water Oak	Red Maple	Dogwood	Locust
Swamp Chestnut Oak	Dogwood	Hickory	Persimmon
Magnolia	Hickory	Pecan	Sugarberry

Chainsaw Safety

Only trained operators with proper safety equipment should attempt to use chainsaws during storm debris cleanup. Many hazards exist including overhead broken limbs and tops, power lines, limbs and trunks under pressure, stepping obstacles, construction debris, and much more. Evaluate potential hazards before determining what and where to cut.

Follow all safety guidelines suggested by the manufacturer and wear protective clothing and equipment. At a minimum the operator should wear leather boots with non-slip soles and steel toes, long pants and long-sleeved shirt, saw-proof chaps, leather gloves, hard-hat, and eye and hearing protection. Other protective equipment may be recommended by the manufacturer and should be worn. Never disable safety features or run a saw with safety features that are not in place or operational.

A thorough assessment of the tree should be made prior to cutting. Look for hazards, lean, obstacles, escape routes, and felling direction. A similar process should be undertaken when limbing and bucking. Trees on the ground present many hazards similar to standing trees. Never run a saw when tired or impaired. Complacency can be deadly.

When cutting always be aware of the location of the tip of the bar. The tip is where kickbacks will occur. Be patient, take a second look, and use wedges. **If you are not sure of what will happen when you make a cut, stop!**

Manufacturers have contact numbers and websites with more detailed information. Check your operator's manual.

Hiring a Consultant

A professional forester can be hired to consult with a landowner. During storm recovery the forester can arrange for timber salvage, assess value of loss for tax purposes, and plan activities for recovery and reforestation. Professional forestry consultants are well versed in negotiating with loggers and vendors, supervising contract work, and acting in the interest of the landowner to meet goals and objectives.

Forestry consultants can be found by using the Mississippi Board of Registration for Foresters at, www.cfr.msstate.edu/borf/.