



Calvert County Environmental Commission

Forests

1. How many native trees and shrubs grow in Calvert County?

According to two documents prepared by staff in the County's Department of Planning & Zoning [Dunkirk Master Plan](#) and [County-Recommended Trees and Shrubs](#), we have 43 canopy tree species (generally >35 ft. tall at maturity), 18 understory tree species (generally <35 ft. tall at maturity), 30 large shrub species (generally >6 ft. tall at maturity), and 21 small shrub species (generally <6 ft. tall at maturity that are native to Calvert County).

2. What are the five most common canopy tree species?

Tulip Poplar, Sweetgum, Red Oak, White Oak, and Red Maple (personal communication with Brian Stupak, Forester with the Maryland Forest Service).

3. What are the dominant timber harvest species?

Tulip Poplar, Red Oak, White Oak, and Virginia Pine/Loblolly Pine (personal communication with Brian Stupak, Forester with the Maryland Forest Service).

4. Why are trees important to land conservation?

Trees conserve soil, energy, water, wildlife, and withdraw carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. When planted along streams and wetlands, trees prevent erosion and help keep the water clean. Trees also attract wildlife and help with flood control.

5. What is the American Tree Farm Program?

The purpose of the Tree Farm program is to encourage forest landowners to practice sound forest management for increased wood production, wildlife habitat, watershed protection, recreation, and aesthetic benefits. Landowners must manage their properties for forest products, wildlife, water protection, and aesthetics and protect their woodlands from fire, insects, and disease. Tree Farms fall under the auspices of the National Tree Farm organization. The agreement made with forest landowners is not a legal document. The National Tree Farm organization provides each landowner with Tree Farm signage they may post on the property.

[American Tree Farm System Website](#)

To become certified, American Tree Farm System (ATFS) landowners must:

- Own at least 10 acres of forestland
- Implement a written forest management plan and
- Follow ATFS and American Forest Foundation's (AFF) 2015-2020 [Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification for Private Forestlands](#).

Tree Farms are inspected and certified to assure proper forest management that includes the conservation of soil, water and wildlife. [American Forest Foundation Website](#)

6. What is a Forest Conservation Management Agreement?

A Forest Conservation Management Agreement (FCMA) is a legal document that is recorded in the County Land records office and is in effect for specified time frames agreed to by the landowner. The document's purpose is to encourage landowners to manage their forest land in return for a reduced and/or frozen property tax assessment.

Any owner of five or more contiguous acres of forest land may enter the program. House sites, crop land, and other non-forest open spaces are not eligible. Open land that was recently planted with forest tree seedlings can be included in the program after one growing season. Land used to grow Christmas trees is also eligible if the trees will be cut at harvest.

The program is a legal agreement between the landowner and the Department of Natural Resources and is recorded in the land records of the county in which the property is located. The landowner agrees to manage their forest land according to a management plan that is prepared for their property. The minimum acreage is five and the minimum length of the agreement is 15 years. The property tax assessment on the forest land in the agreement is generally reduced and frozen at a low agricultural rate. If the agreement is broken through failure to follow the plan, sale of the property to someone unwilling to assume the responsibility, or if the landowner just wants to be out of the program, back taxes will be levied and computed back to the beginning of the agreement. The agreement can be amended to increase or decrease acreage and it can be transferred to a buyer if the buyer is willing to assume the responsibilities of the agreement.

[DNR's Forest Conservation and Management Program](#)

7. What is a Forest Management Plan?

A forest management/stewardship plan is a working document that allows a landowner to maximize a mix of forest benefits, including wildlife, timber, recreation, aesthetic value and other benefits. The basic components of a forest stewardship plan, developed by a registered Forester in conjunction with the landowner, are:

- A statement of your goals and objectives that is meant to express what is desired for the future of the land. This can include maximizing timber production, but also timber harvest activities that enhance wildlife, recreation, forest health, and other forest benefits.
- Maps to denote the property's location, boundaries, forest stands, and soil types.
- A timber inventory, complete with fill volume, stocking and species information; an inventory of critical areas and/or endangered species; biological inventory; descriptions of geological features, cultural features, ecological communities, and soil data. The intensity of the survey can vary depending on the lot owners' interests.
- Action steps to meet the mentioned goals and objectives.

[Pennsylvania Forest Management Plan](#)

8. How is the designation of Tree Farm or Forest Conservation Management Agreement established and by whom?

By the local (Calvert County) Department of Natural Resources Forester, Brian Stupak, or by Dan Rider, both with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service at 580 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (410-260-8583)

E-mail: daniel.rider@maryland.gov <http://dnr.maryland.gov/forests>

9. Does Calvert County have a Forester, what agency is he/she with, what are his/her responsibilities?

Yes. Brian Stupak is the State Forester working in Calvert County. His address/phone number are: Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Forest Service, 6904 Hallowing Lane, Prince Frederick MD 20678, 410-535-1303.

Maryland Forest Service professionals are available to coordinate forestry activities that are provided by private sector vendors. This includes tree plantings, site preparation, aerial spraying, non-commercial timber stand improvement by physical marking of trees for firewood, pulpwood, seed tree designation, routine thinning, etc.---but they cannot mark saw timber, do volume estimates, or determine appraised value. They can conduct an on-site examination of any fields or open areas that landowners wish to plant in trees or shrubs and prepare a planting plan. Forestry equipment rental is also available. Certain specialized forestry equipment is available for rent by private landowners for use on both public and private lands.

Contact the Calvert Forestry office for equipment rental information (410-535-1301).

10. What is the Calvert County Forestry Board and what are its responsibilities?

The Calvert County Forestry Board is a group of citizens who serve as advocates for forestry in the county and who are committed to promoting the benefits of sustainable forest management.

Currently there are seven members that have a wide variety of backgrounds including business, teaching, and publishing. The Board is funded annually by a grant from the Board of Calvert County Commissioners. The Forestry Board uses these resources to support various forest education and awareness activities throughout the County. Just a few examples include the Calvert Envirothon, the Arbor Day Poster Contest, the School Forest Program, the fall Tree Farm Tour, and the Natural Resources Careers Camp. For more information, go to their web site:

<http://www.calvertforestry.org>

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