

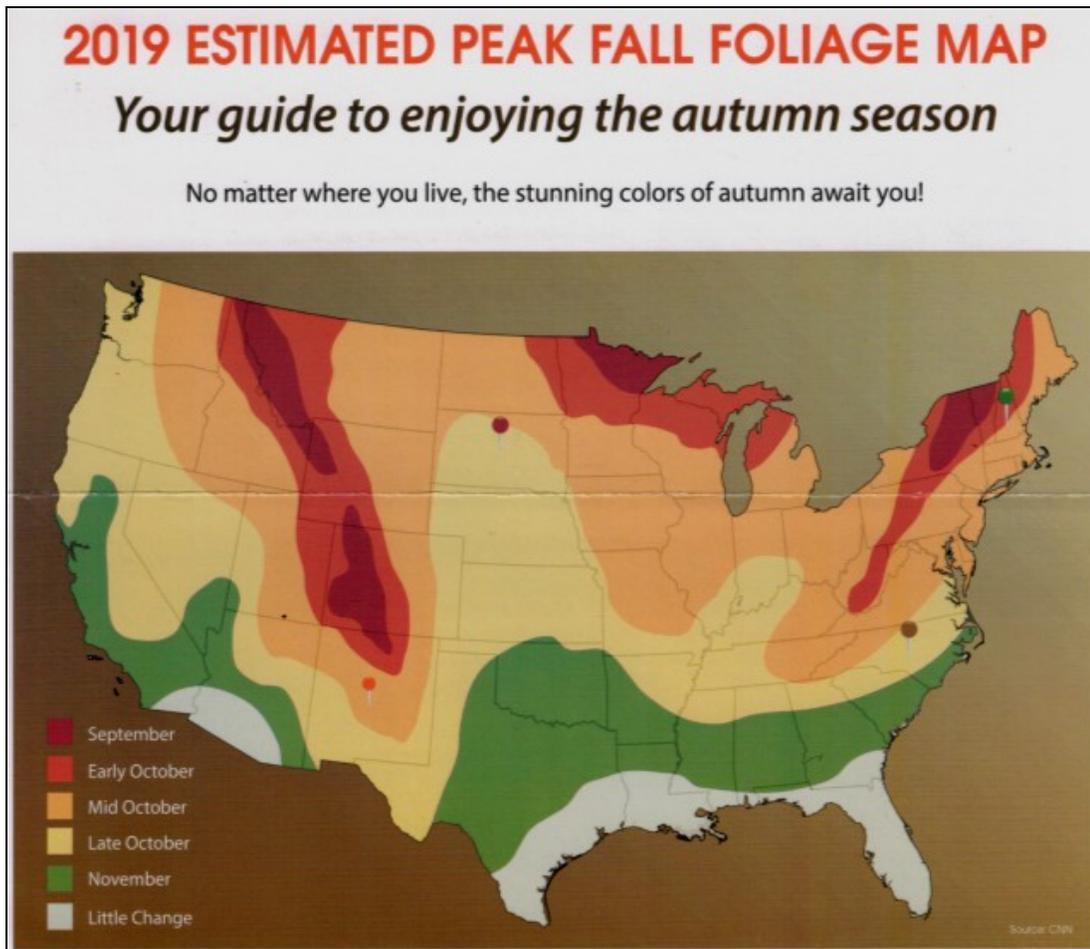


# Burns Forestry Newsletter

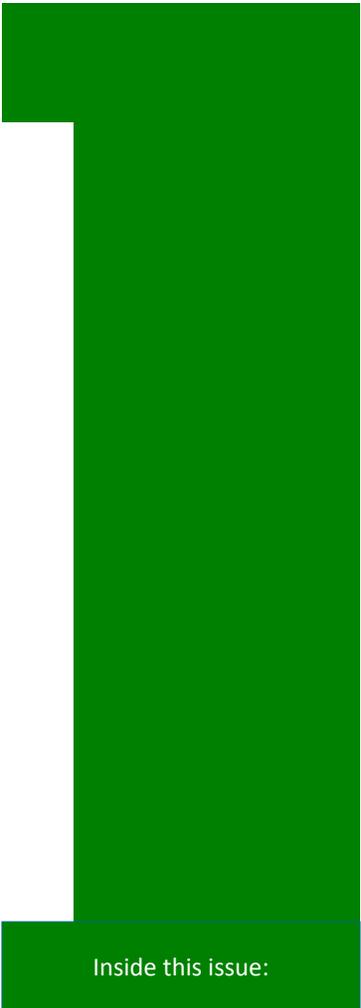
## NEW JASPER MILL

Eddie Hopkins, the Executive Director of the Jasper Economic Development Corporation, announced that Texas Cross Laminated Timber, LLC., based in Magnolia, Arkansas, would soon expand its operations to Jasper. The operation will be at the 92 acre site of the old Louisiana-Pacific Mill on Highway 63 east, which closed in 1997.

The wood mill will create 60 jobs and possibly 250 jobs in the future, making wooden mats and building material from yellow pine lumber. The equipment has reportedly been ordered and construction is estimated to take place by February of next year.



SOURCE: CNN



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## HOUSING

August U.S. housing starts jumped 12 percent to their highest level since June 2007. The data is skewed towards multi-family housing, which soared 32.8 percent (445,000 units) while single-family starts increased 4.4 percent (919,000 units). Realtors, however, estimate that housing starts and completion rates need to be about 1.5-1.6 million units per month.

The 30-year fixed mortgage rate dropped to 3.62 percent for the month. The rate peaked at 4.87 percent in November 2018 and has dropped 26 percent since then. The average housing price, however, is \$300,000.

While the remodeling market and the growing container board demand help compensate for the lack of housing starts, it has had no significant effect on the timber market. Abundant timber supply and the consolidation of the mill sector kept timber prices stagnant.



## PROPERTY RIGHTS

The U.S. Supreme Court recently reversed its previous decisions in a move to strengthen landowners' private property rights against intrusion by state and local governments. The Fifth Amendment in the Constitution prohibits federal and state governments from taking private property without providing "just compensation". Often, state and local regulations can become a "taking" of private property if they prevent an opportunity to make use of a property.

Previously, if a state or local government's action resulted in a full or partial "taking", the landowner had to bring their claim to state court. They could not bring it to federal court. This had the plaintiff bringing their complaint against the state in a court that is run by the state.

This is a notable win for private property rights. While the new law doesn't change the substantive law of "takings", it makes it possible for property owners to avoid an unfriendly local or state court.

**TEXAS FOREST SERVICE TREE PLANTING SPECIFICATIONS**Planting should be completed between:

December 1 and April 1, if planting if north of Interstate 20

December 1 and March 15, if planting south of Interstate 20

Containerized seedlings may be planted as early as October 1, if soil and weather conditions are favorable.

Planting rate:

Planting density is dependent upon landowner objectives.

Timber production rows should be no less than 8 feet apart.

For aesthetics or wildlife, density can be lower, but should be high enough to ensure stand establishment accounting for natural mortality.

Planting density should be within 10% of prescribed trees per acre for the stand or tract.

Planting depth:

Bareroot seedlings should be planted with the root collar at or below ground level with a minimum of 1 inch to the bud of seedlings above ground without J-rooting.

Container seedlings should be planted deep, with the top of the plug below ground level.

Ensure the proper planting equipment or tool is utilized for the job.Seedling Care:

Store seedlings in cold storage until the planting date.

Keep containers closed to minimize drying of the roots.

Seedlings should be transported in an enclosed trailer if possible, but at the very minimum, they should be covered to protect containers from possible wind damage.

When on site, seedlings should be stored in the shade, in a structure, or under an insulated tarp to protect them from excessive heat and cold.

Box temperatures containing seedlings should remain above freezing and below 65 °F.

## **BREEDER DEER**

A Texas appeals court has ruled that breeder deer are not private property and therefore subject to state laws designed to limit the spread of chronic wasting disease. The court upheld the decision that breeder deer in captive facilities are public property held under a permit. The state regulations require testing and limitations on the transportation of captive deer to contain chronic wasting disease.

## **NORTHEAST VS. TEXAS TIMBER PROJECTION**

According to a recent article in *Northern Woodlands* (Summer 2019), northeast forest types usually grow less than one cord of total growth per acre, per year, with white pine and other softwoods growing a bit more. If 50 percent of this growth is in hardwood sawtimber, that would add about 300 board feet per acre annually. Soft woods would be a bit more. At an average of \$100 per thousand board feet, there would be about \$30 per acre per year of annual growth.

In comparison, a Texas Forest Service projection in 2016 showed a total yield per acre of a pine plantation in Texas at about \$75 per acre per year after a 30 year rotation.

## **FOOD PLOTS FOR DEER**

The Texas Deer Management Calendar (Texas Forestry, September 2019) recommends establishing a game camera site for every 100 square acres of habitat for 14 days in September. The cameras should be along heavily used trails and made to be near food plots, but not at the feeder.

If you use corn as a feed, be sure it has low aflatoxin content. Relocate feeding stations a short distance from old locations to discourage the buildup of deer pathogens. If there is enough soil moisture, begin planting cooler season food plots. Plant at least one percent of the acreage in small grains and cool season legumes (clovers). An alternate approach is to plant a combination of forage cowpeas, small grain and cool-season clover. Iron and clay cowpeas, winter hardy oats and apache arrow leaf clover, for example, can provide an immediate forage as well as winter-stressed food.

If you plant numerous small plots, you can maximize edge, which will encourage daylight feeding. Also if you stake wire enclosures, you can monitor forage use on the plots.

## FIRST THIN COST SHARES

The 2019 Southern Beetle Prevention Program provides cost shares for dense first-thin pulpwood pine stands in 21 East Texas countries. The funding is available from a grant from the USDA Forest Service Forest Health Protection Program and is administrated by the Texas A&M Forest Service. The program's goal is to reduce the potential for Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) infestations as well as to increase tree growth and vigor.

Eligible landowners may receive up to \$50 per acre to assist in conducting a first-thin operation. There is a 100-acre maximum, and the thinning must be completed within 12 months of the approval date.

The 21 approved counties are:

Angelina, Liberty, Sabine, Cass, Marion, San Augustine, Cherokee, Nacogdoches, San Jacinto, Hardin, Newton, Shelby, Harrison, Panola, Trinity, Houston, Polk, Tyler, Jasper, Rusk and Walker

## FORESTRY RELATED WEBSITES

The Forestry Herbicide Prescriptions web-based application helps determine the best herbicide prescription to control unwanted vegetation for many typical forest management situations in the Western Gulf region.

You can find it at <http://TexasForestInfo.tamu.edu>

The Texas A&M Forest Service has an online tool kit with step-by-step guidance for licensed professionals and burn managers. Check it out on:

[tfsweb.tamu.edu/prescribedburns](http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/prescribedburns)

Checkout this forestry information website, [www.forestnet.com](http://www.forestnet.com)

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