

# WILDLIFE TRENDS

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## Establishing Hardwood Plantations for Wildlife Habitat, Diversity, Revenue, and Conservation of Our Natural Resources: Part 1 of 2

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In the last decade, thousands of acres of hardwood plantations have been established in the southeastern United States. The majority of these acres have been planted in the Mississippi River basin under government incentive programs including the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). While the primary purpose of these incentive programs is to remove erodible land from row crop production and restore bottomland hardwood areas, the subsequent benefits to private landowners, outdoor sportsmen, and the general public, are substantial. It has now become evident that hardwood plantations can be established on many sites throughout the South. In this article, we list the benefits of hardwood plantations, explore ways to design and personalize these plantations to meet landowner objectives, and outline steps for successfully installing your first hardwood plantation.



Green Ash seedlings

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