

Longleaf Pine Drawing Deadline July 9, 2001

This 2000-2001 planting season continued to experience high demand for longleaf seedlings in the South. The South Carolina Forestry Commission received orders for fourteen million longleaf pine seedlings in 2000 but our nurseries were only able to produce five million longleaf. The SCFC will increase longleaf pine production to eight million for the coming 2001-2002 planting season.

The high demand for longleaf pine is related to new cost-share incentives, especially from the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Rural landowners who opt to plant formerly agricultural land in grasses or trees have traditionally been eligible for CRP cost-share payments. Recently the program made re-establishment of longleaf pine in its natural habitat a priority area for funding. There were no new CRP sign ups for longleaf pine this year so demand should not increase this coming year.

In order to fairly distribute as many seedlings as possible to the most people the Forestry Commission will hold a random drawing as described below.

1. A computerized random drawing will be held at 1:00 pm on July 13 for all longleaf pine orders received from July 1 to 5:00 pm, July 9, 2001. No preference will be given for type of order or method of order delivery. Once trees are sold out, a sequential waiting list will be created by lot from the orders remaining in the drawing. Orders placed after the drawing will be added to the waiting list as received.

2. Orders for longleaf pine seedlings, whether bareroot, containerized or a combination, will be limited to 25,000 trees per customer.

3. SCFC strongly discourages fictitious or duplicate applications. If SCFC establishes that an individual has submitted multiple applications, we reserve the right to cancel one or all of the applications.

TIPS: Mail order form on July 1. Orders received in June may be returned since the new fiscal year begins July 1.

Apply for longleaf pine on a separate application if you are ordering a variety of other seedlings. It won't affect your chances of getting longleaf but it will simplify processing your order for the other species.

This should give as many people as possible the same opportunity to receive longleaf seedlings. We will continue to maximize our longleaf production to serve as many people as possible in the future.

Some landowners in the CRP program may not get selected during their three year time period. Contact your Farm Service Agency representative if you are not able to get your trees in the specified time period.

Order forms will be available in June at your nearest Forestry Commission office or call the Forestry Commission at 803-896-8910 / 896-8800 and request an order form. Order forms can also be down loaded off the SCFC website at www.state.sc.us/forest.

Remember Memorial Day



May 28, 2001

State Farmers Markets Availability Listing

Seasonal In-State Featured Products

Columbia SFM
1001 Bluff Rd.
Columbia
803-737-4664

bedding plants, strawberries,
green onions, sugar peas

Greenville SFM
1354 Rutherford Rd.
Greenville
864-244-4023

apples, cabbage, strawberries,
greens, bedding plants,
English peas, green onions

Pee Dee SFM
2513 W. Lucas St.
Florence
843-665-5154

garden peas, strawberries,
squash, onions, peaches

**Seasonal
Out-of-State
Featured Products**
citrus, honey, jams, and jellies

SC Nursery and Landscape Association Sponsors 5th Annual Certified Landscape Technician Test

The fifth annual Certified Landscape Technician Test will be given on July 20-21, 2001 at the Sandhill Research and Education Center in Columbia. SCNLA sponsors this hands-on testing program to recognize proficiency in the landscape work force, upgrade the status of the landscape professional, and provide the public with a means of identifying qualified landscape professionals.

The basic core test includes safety, plan reading, sod installation, irrigation identification, grading and seeding, plant sensitivity, plant identification, program controller, lateral repair and head adjustment, and truck and trailer use and safety. The installation core of the test includes plant layout, grading & drainage, instrument reading, paver installation, rototiller use, tractor operation, tree planting, tree staking and guying and chainsaw use. Testing procedures require that the participants actually perform the required skills. Four written tests must also be passed.

The test is directed at those who have at least four years landscape installation experience or at least a two year degree and 2 years experience. A study manual can be purchased from the SCNLA. Deadline for registration is July 11, 2001. The test fee is \$200 for SCNLA members and \$250 for non-members. This program is the joint effort of the SCNLA and the Associated Landscape Contractors of America (ALCA). It provides national recognition of the quality and standards of the test and those who pass it. For more information you can call the SCNLA office at 864-592-3868.

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Commissioner's Column

Plant A Row for the Hungry

All across the state farmers are combining their efforts with local residents and master gardeners to plant a row for the hungry this year. One such program in the Mt. Pleasant area kicked off their efforts in March and is going strong with approximately 2,000 pounds of produce already collected!

"Twenty seven percent of all food in the United States is thrown away while one in every four children in South Carolina is food insecure or hungry," said Jacki Baer, Plant a Row coordinator. "These numbers do not spare Mt. Pleasant and when hunger is a concern among the 26 percent of people in South Carolina who live at or below the poverty level, the need to act becomes paramount."

Plant a Row was created by the Garden Writers Association of America and Home and Garden Television. The program, with the efforts of Clemson Extension Service and Master Gardener Programs across the state, is based on a people helping people philosophy. Not only do they increase awareness of the dire situation of the hungry in the state, but also they attempt to solve the problem by donating produce to area food banks.

Last year, 18,000 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables were collected through the Mt. Pleasant Plant a Row Program. The produce was donated by local gardeners and farmers involved in the Mt. Pleasant Farmers' Market. The Lowcountry Food Bank then, in turn, distributed the produce to more than 300 agencies in over 10 counties in South Carolina.

This year, Jacki Baer, Master Gardener and Program coordinator, hopes for 30,000 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables. Currently she is gleaning produce from five area farmers' markets, with about 100-250 pounds collected per week. With the advent of the summer months, higher yields will result.

Those participating include the Mt. Pleasant Farmers' Market, Charleston Farmers' Market, N. Charleston/Hanahan Market, Goose Creek Market, and the Summerville Market. From these markets she obtains extra produce to donate to the food bank. The Lowcountry Food Bank then doles out the collection between numerous agencies like Helping Hands of Goose Creek, Crisis Ministries, and ITEC Youth Services.

In addition to the markets, several local schools, farmers, and gardeners also participate in the program by planting an extra row in their fields or gardens. This year Mrs. Baer started a contest in all the Mt. Pleasant schools encouraging students to bring surplus fruits and vegetables from their gardens. When Plant a Row ends, she will present an award to the school with the most pounds per enrollment.

In addition, two schools have planted and dedicated whole gardens to the Plant a Row effort. One inner city Charleston school and Baptist Hill High School have cultivated a garden of fruits and vegetables solely for the purpose of donating the produce.

The Clemson Extension Service in Charleston has also planted a demonstration garden with crops that are all earmarked for Plant a Row.

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