

Texas Longleaf Team Project

Courtney McInnerney, with the Texas Longleaf Team in Woodville, updated the Tyler County Forest Landowner Association on March 21, 2026.

Longleaf once covered 90 million acres along the U.S. Coastal Plain. The coverage dropped to 3 million acres and is now up to 4-5 million acres. Historically, lightning strikes triggered fires that suppressed the underbrush and kept the forest floor open. While longleaf pines are wind resistant, the limbs are susceptible to ice breakage. The prevalence of ice storms defines the northern limit of longleaf pines.

Ninety percent of Texas' forests are private. The average size of family-owned forests in East Texas is 59 acres. Longleaf provide landowners multi-use forests that are good for both wildlife and grazing. The forests are resilient in wildfire and resistant to insects. Once established, a longleaf forest regenerates naturally.

Financial assistance is available to forest landowners for longleaf pine outreach, site prep, herbicides, prescribed fire, and tree planting. Tyler County is ranked high in the availability of assistance because of its longleaf pine density. All longleaf seedlings are containerized and are planted from October to St. Patrick's Day.

For more information, contact the Texas Longleaf Team at <https://txlongleaf.org/>.