

**Virginia Department of Forestry**  
Partner Update  
March 2023

**Overall:**

Visit our website at <https://dof.virginia.gov> and click on “Find a Forester” to identify your local contact.

Spring Fire Season runs Feb 15-April 30

**Trees for sale!**

Packaged as bare-root seedlings, trees can be picked up from our Augusta Nursery or delivered between Feb. 22 and April 26, 2023. Seedlings can be ordered in quantities ranging from five to 25,000. Supplies are limited and some species sell out quickly. To browse the seedling catalog, visit [BuyVaTrees.com](http://BuyVaTrees.com).

**Watershed Program**

- **Let us help you plant riparian forest buffers! Reach out to Caitlin Verdu at [Caitlin.verdu@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:Caitlin.verdu@dof.virginia.gov).**
- We are advertising a facilitator to begin work on a Statewide Riparian Forest Buffer Action Plan which will emphasize:
  - Coordinating outreach to landowners to better match landowners to best-fit programs
  - Increasing the capacity for planting and maintaining buffers
  - Setting realistic goals and timelines for implementation
  - Improving recording and reporting protocols
- If we're not already working with you, we'd like to!

**James River Buffer Program**

- The James River Buffer Program is a flexible cost-share option for landowners looking to install a riparian forest buffer. The program is run in partnership with the James River Association and is funded by the Virginia Environmental Endowment.
- More than 350 acres of buffer have been planted through this program since 2020.
- For more information or to apply for this program, please visit the website at: <https://www.jamesriverbuffers.org/>

### Emerald Ash Borer Cost Share

The 2023 Emerald Ash Borer Cost-Share will be open to landowners and organizations (e.g. municipalities, non-profits, educational institutions, and HOA's) *statewide*, with applications accepted from **April 20th-June 16th**. The program shares the cost of emamectin benzoate injection treatments for qualifying ash trees, up to 50%. There is a landowner maximum match of \$1,250 and an organization max of \$5,000, as well as a \$10,000 cap for cost-sharing per locality.

The VDOF website has the application form and documents detailing the program and application process more in-depth.

### Silvicultural Water Quality Program

- Calendar year 2022 BMP implementation rate based on the quarterly audits: 96.8% statewide, 97.7% within the Chesapeake Bay watershed
- The Logger BMP Cost Share Program allocated \$252,000.00 of funding for 30 projects directly related to stream crossings on timber harvest operations during the time period of October -December 2022
- Riparian Buffer Tax Credit Program provided tax credits totaling \$462,596.26 on timber valued at \$2,356,689.40 that were retained in SMZ's on 73 timber harvests during the 2021 Tax Year.

For more information, feel free to contact DOF's Watershed Program Manager Caitlin Verdu at [Caitlin.verdu@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:Caitlin.verdu@dof.virginia.gov).