

# Woody Species Plant Project



Trees growing in a nursery

**Project Year:** 2007

**Category:** Invasives

**Status:** Open

**Project #:** None

**Location:**

Barataria and Terrebonne Basins

**Project Partners:**

EPA, LUMCON, USDA-NRCS Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center

## Problem Addressed:

Coastal land loss rates in Louisiana are higher than anywhere else on earth. The impacts to fish and wildlife utilizing coastal wetland habitats in the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary are considerable.

## Problem Description:

The BTNEP Coastal Vegetation Research & Restoration Program addresses the impacts to coastal wetland habitats by fostering partnerships with other agencies and organizations to implement projects that restore natural landscape features that are vegetated with native species.

The Woody Species Plant Project attempts to address the specific problem of the loss of maritime forests in Louisiana's coastal wetlands due to subsidence and erosion.

Efforts to restore Louisiana's disappearing wetlands have focused mainly on wetland and dune grasses. There is little information available for the selection, propagation and establishment of woody plants applicable to highly disturbed and saline soils. Consequently, many restored sites lack plant species diversity and therefore have limited wildlife habitat value, specifically to resident and migratory bird species.

BTNEP has partnered with the USDA-NRCS Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center and is conducting in-house research to identify woody species suitable for coastal restoration. Steps include the identification, selection, propagation, and testing of native woody species with known wildlife value; development of harvesting, handling, and propagation techniques; the production of select plant materials for field trials; the evaluation of plant establishment and management procedures; and the advancement of industry understanding through publications, demonstrations, and information exchange. To date, thousands of trees have been grown, planted, and are currently be evaluated.



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