

## Applications for Biomass Plantings

Applicant must be owner of property or have written permission from property owner of the planting location.

Applications for biomass plantings must be submitted with a non-refundable application fee of \$50.00. Separate applications and fees are required for each noncontiguous planting. To apply for a permit, please submit the following:

- ◆ Cover letter or letter of intent
- ◆ Biomass Permit Application (DACS-08381)
- ◆ Proof of site ownership/permission
- ◆ Voucher specimen of plant
- ◆ Description of nonnative plant to be grown and an estimated cost of removing and destroying, and the basis for calculating or determining the estimate
- ◆ \$50.00 biomass permit fee for each site application
- ◆ Mail payment and application to:  
**Division of Plant Industry  
Methods Development  
P. O. Box 147100  
Gainesville, Florida 32614-7100**

Application forms are available online at [www.doacs.state.fl.us/onestop/plt/methods.html](http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/onestop/plt/methods.html) or contact the Division of Plant Industry helpline.

## Approval Process

- ◆ Please allow 60-90 days for the application process.
- ◆ After an initial permit review, a site visit by the division will be scheduled.
- ◆ If the initial permit is approved, proof of bond certificate of deposit (equal to the estimated cost to eliminate the crop) issued by a surety company must be provided.
- ◆ Once approved, a compliance agreement is issued (DACS 08383) for applicant signature.

## Contact Information

### Biomass Permitting:

**Trevor Smith**  
352-372-3505 x 445

**Abbie Fox**  
352-372-3505 x 454

**Division of Plant Industry Helpline**  
1-888-397-1517

## Websites

**Noxious Weed Lists**  
[www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi](http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi)

**Farm to Fuel Initiative**  
[www.floridafarmtofuel.com/](http://www.floridafarmtofuel.com/)

**25 x'25 America's Energy Future**  
<http://www.25x25.org/>

**Full text of Biomass Planting  
Rule 5B-57.011**  
[www.flrules.org](http://www.flrules.org)

DACS-P-01585



# Biomass Permitting

## Supporting the Farm to Fuel Initiative



Division of  
**PLANT INDUSTRY**  
*Florida. Protection through Detection*  
Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

**Charles H. Bronson, Commissioner**  
**Richard Gaskalla, Director**

## Biomass Production

### Supporting the Farm to Fuel Initiative

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services continues to promote the production of renewable energy in Florida through the Farm to Fuel Initiative. The aim is to make Florida a leader in the national effort to utilize biofuels. Because of our agricultural resources, climate and geographic location, the Department believes Florida has the greatest potential for biomass production in the country, and the technology exists to convert natural resources for the production of clean, alternative fuel.

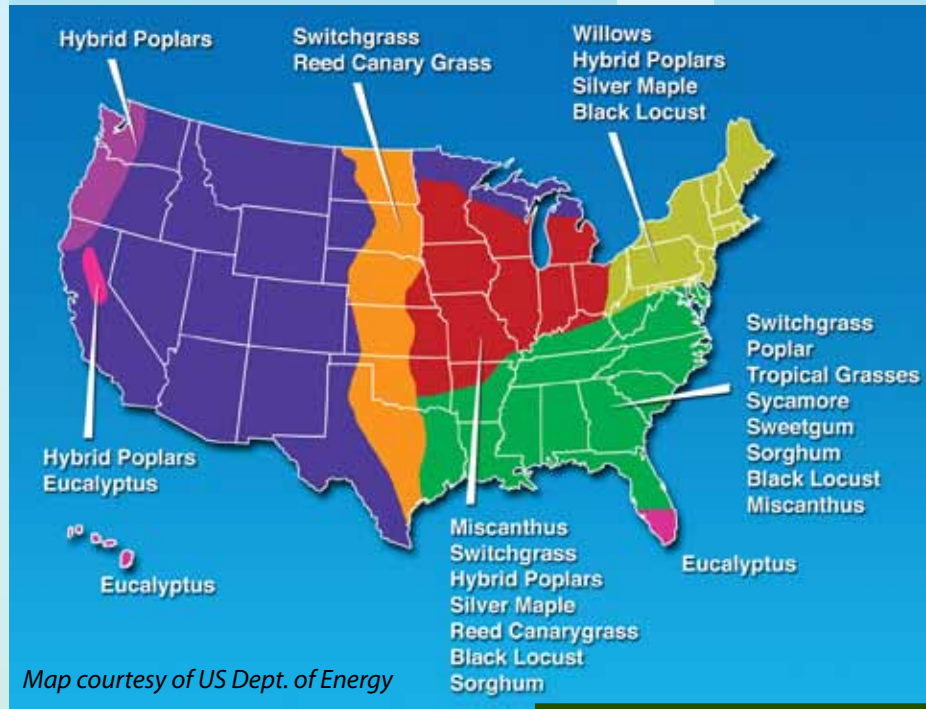
*The Florida Farm to Fuel Initiative evolved from Florida Agriculture Commissioner Bronson's leadership role in the national "25x'25" program. The goal is to produce 25 percent of America's energy needs from renewable sources by 2025.*

### Biomass Planting

Biomass planting refers to plant material grown and harvested for use in fuel production. According to the US Department of Energy, biomass is currently the only clean renewable energy source that can help to significantly diversify transportation fuels in the US. Because of interest in this new fuel source, an increasing number of growers are using their agricultural lands to plant biomass crops. To support this industry and Florida agriculture, the Department's Division of Plant Industry is responsible for regulating these plantings.

The purpose of the permitting process is to control the introduction into, or movement within, Florida of plant species intended for biomass plantings and to establish procedures that will assist in confirming that introductions and field releases are conducted in a manner that provides the maximum public and environmental protection.

A biomass permit is not required for plants produced for purposes of agriculture, or if the division in consultation with the University of



Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences has determined that the non-native plant is not invasive and specifically exempts it in this rule. **The following plants or groups of plants are exempt:** (a) Any plant that is produced for purposes of human food consumption; (b) Any plant that is commonly grown for commercial feed, feedstuff or forage for livestock; (c) *Pinus* spp.

## Biomass Permit Requirements

- ◆ Permit shall not be issued for any plants on the state or federal noxious weed list.
- ◆ Permit required for any biomass planting of two contiguous acres of land. (See rule for exemptions.)
- ◆ Permit is required if planting will exceed five percent of the acreage of original permit.
- ◆ System of traps or filters must be created.
- ◆ Fallow areas must be developed that are wide enough to prevent spread.
- ◆ Equipment used on site must be cleaned of plant material.
- ◆ Wildfire protection measures must be taken.
- ◆ Quarterly site visits will be conducted by division inspectors to ensure compliance.
- ◆ Permit holder required to completely destroy planting prior to vacating property or stopping commercial production.
- ◆ Surety bond is required.

