



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
COMMISSIONER ADAM H. PUTNAM

Abandoned Grove Initiative

Frequently Asked Questions

What is your definition of an abandoned grove?

Abandoned Grove Definition

- *No harvesting of grove in two years*
- *No production care during past two years (no weed control, no mowing)*
- *Grove use transferred for other production (livestock, pine trees)*
- *Un-pruned or weather-damaged trees that are not economically feasible to maintain*

What is the basic process or procedure in CHRP for abandoned groves?

1. *Conduct site verification surveys by CHRP personnel to determine if abandoned; some Tax Assessors will determine if the citrus grove is abandoned*
2. *Record data of abandoned grove and attempt contact with land owner*
3. *Meet with land owner and explain abandoned grove initiative*
4. *Provide assistance to land owner such as contact information for IFAS and Tax Assessor*
5. *Upon completion of destroying citrus trees at owner's expense, land owner will be provided with an abandoned grove compliance agreement and compliance agreement number*
6. *CHRP will perform a site survey for the next two years checking for root sprouts*

How long is the Ag exemption good for?

Abandoned grove compliance agreements are valid for two years and may be extended in one-year increments based upon written request justifying the need for additional time to complete land use transition.

Will CHRP provide documents to the Tax Assessor's office?

Upon request, the Tax Assessor may receive the following from FDACS/CHRP:

- *List of abandoned grove properties that meet the definition of abandoned groves in the county that the Tax Assessor serves*
- *Maps of abandoned grove properties provided upon request to Tax Assessors*

- *Verification of grove status provided from CHRP based on field survey, or conversation with land owner*

What will the Tax Assessor requires from me as a land owner?

Each Tax Assessor may request different documentation. Most are requiring the abandoned grove compliance agreement number that is provided to the land owner when the citrus trees are confirmed destroyed by a CHRP representative.

Is CHRP considered a successor program from CCEP?

Yes, CCEP ended in January of 2006.

What if I have a signed compliance agreement and choose not to comply with your initiative?

It is totally your decision how you manage your groves. The industry, however, is researching all threats to production groves and there are currently research projects that suggest that abandoned groves pose a significant threat to the industry.

Is there any compensation available to me?

No, there is no legislated compensation currently available.

Is this a mandate or an opinion?

Neither. We're only following through on a grower initiative to ID and attempt to manage nonproductive citrus that may be a threat to the industry.

Are you going to turn my name in to the property appraiser?

All our data is subject to the Sunshine Law.

What if I am letting my grove sit idle until the market price is better?

Unless there is some activity in the grove within the past two years, it will be classified as abandoned and subjected to treatment as such by the industry and by us as regulators of the industry. It is recommended that basic care for the grove be performed such as pest management, mowing, herbicide, disease survey, etc.

What can I use to kill my trees? Do you have any suggestions?

No suggestions, but you may contact the UF/IFAS office or your extension agent to discuss this.

How did you get my name? Am I on a list?

CHRP has collected information on abandoned grove locations statewide by surveys and other means of information gathering.

What is in this for me?

Agricultural exemption: The Department's interpretation of the law regarding agricultural exemption is that if you have a current compliance agreement on file with the CHRP program, then you can keep your Ag exemption as long as you are in compliance. Owners who remove or kill trees in abandoned groves are eligible for agricultural exemptions.

What about residential and feral trees?

Currently, FDACS/CHRP is not focused on either of these.

What if I need more information?

Please contact the CHRP helpline, 1-888-397-1517.