Spring in Virginia brings dry, windy days when brush fires can spread quickly through overgrown land. Properties with thick brush, dead material and dense understory close to homes and barns carry a higher risk. South Atlantic Land Works helps landowners reduce that fuel load with targeted clearing and forestry mulching.

Reducing fire risk is one of the side benefits of mulching. Dense brush and small trees are ground into mulch that lies flat on the ground, rather than standing vegetation that can carry flame upward. Clearing a buffer around buildings, cutting firebreaks along property lines and opening up overgrown woodland edges all help slow a fire and give firefighters room to work.

Because mulching does not involve burning, the work itself creates no fire hazard, which matters during the spring season when Virginia restricts open burning. Mike can walk your property, identify the areas of highest risk and recommend a practical plan to make it safer.

Equipment maintenance matters for a clean job. Sharp mulching teeth produce finer mulch and a cleaner cut, and well maintained machines work more efficiently. That attention to equipment is part of what keeps jobs moving and results consistent from one property to the next.



South Atlantic Land Works | 1416 Poorhouse Rd, Rice, VA 23966 | 434-603-1964

For farm properties, clearing is often about reclaiming productive acres. Every acre of pasture lost to cedar and briars is an acre that is not feeding livestock or growing hay. Bringing that ground back into use is frequently cheaper than renting or buying more land, and it improves the whole farm's appearance and value.

Access is often the hidden challenge on rural properties. Gates may be narrow, old roads may be washed out and soft spots may hide under leaf litter. Planning the route for the track loader and trailer in advance avoids damage to driveways and lawns, and where needed the crew can clear and stabilize an access path as the first land clearing contractors step of the job.

Grading is available on the same project, so a site can go from overgrown to shaped and ready for a driveway, a pad or a field without bringing in a second contractor. Fence lines, field edges and pastures lost to scrub can be reclaimed quickly, often in a single visit, putting unused ground back into production. Clearing also reduces the fuel load on a property. Ground up brush lies flat on the ground instead of standing as dry fuel, which helps lower wildfire risk around homes and barns.

Do not let overgrown ground sit unused for another season. Call South Atlantic Land Works at 434-603-1964 and find out what your property could look like.

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FAQ About Land Clearing Near Me How much does land clearing cost in Central Virginia? Land clearing costs depend on how thick the vegetation is, the size of the trees, the terrain and how much of the property you want opened up. A lot of light brush and saplings costs far less than mature hardwood on a slope. South Atlantic Land Works gives free estimates after walking the property, so you get a real number for your land rather than a guess. Call 434-603-1964 to arrange one. What is forestry mulching? Forestry mulching is a clearing method where a mulching head cuts and grinds brush, saplings and small trees in place, leaving the material as a layer of mulch on the ground. South Atlantic Land Works runs a mulching head on a CAT compact track loader, so a site in Rice or Farmville can be cleared in a single pass with no hauling and no burn piles. Is forestry mulching better than bulldozer clearing? For most homesites, pastures, trails, fence lines and hunting land, mulching is cleaner and more cost effective because it keeps topsoil and roots in place and eliminates burn piles. A dozer can remove stumps and strip a site completely, which some building projects need. Mike at South Atlantic Land Works will recommend the right mix for your property, including grading or stump grinding where needed. Can I clear land during Virginia's spring burning season? Yes, if the clearing is done by mulching. Virginia's 4 PM Burning Law restricts open burning near woodland from February 15 through April 30, which can hold up traditional clearing that relies on burn piles. Because South Atlantic Land Works grinds vegetation in place, there is nothing to burn and spring projects can go ahead on schedule. Do I need a permit to clear land in Virginia? It depends on the size and purpose of the project and on your county's rules. Larger land disturbing projects can fall under Virginia's erosion and sediment control requirements, so it is worth checking with your county before work starts. Mulching leaves soil covered and roots in place, which helps limit erosion. South Atlantic Land Works can talk through your plans when it walks the property. How long does it take to clear an acre of land? Clearing time varies with vegetation density, tree size, slope and ground conditions. Light brush can go quickly, while heavy timber or steep ground takes longer. After walking your property, Mike at South Atlantic Land Works can give you a realistic timeframe along with your free estimate, and the crew works Monday through Saturday to fit your schedule. What happens to the trees and brush after clearing? With forestry mulching, trees and brush are ground into wood chips and spread across the

cleared area. That mulch layer protects Piedmont clay from erosion, holds moisture and breaks down into organic matter over time. There are no debris piles to haul away or burn, which is one reason South Atlantic Land Works uses mulching on most jobs. Can you save certain trees when clearing my property? Yes. Selective clearing is one of South Atlantic Land Works' specialties. Before work begins, Mike walks the property with you and marks the oaks, shade trees and privacy screens you want to keep. The compact track loader and mulching head can then clear the underbrush and unwanted trees around them without damaging what stays. Can you clear land for food plots and hunting? South Atlantic Land Works regularly clears food plots, shooting lanes and access trails on hunting land across Prince Edward, Cumberland, Buckingham and Charlotte counties. Mulching opens the ground for discing and seeding while leaving the surrounding cover that holds deer and turkey intact. Will the brush grow back after forestry mulching? Some species, such as sweetgum and many invasive shrubs, can sprout back from roots, so mulching works best with follow up mowing or maintenance. Once the woody growth has been cleared, keeping it open is usually straightforward. Mike at South Atlantic Land Works can suggest a maintenance plan based on what is growing on your land. What areas does South Atlantic Land Works serve? South Atlantic Land Works is based at 1416 Poorhouse Rd in Rice and serves Central and Southside Virginia, including Farmville, Hampden-Sydney, Prospect, Pamplin, Burkeville, Crewe, Blackstone, Cumberland, Dillwyn, Keysville, Charlotte Court House, Drakes Branch, Amelia Court House, Kenbridge and Victoria. Call 434-603-1964 to check whether your property is in the service area. Do you offer grading after land clearing? Yes. South Atlantic Land Works can grade house pads, driveways, building sites and fields after clearing, so you can take a property from overgrown to ready with one contractor. Getting drainage right on red clay soil is important, and the crew shapes the ground so water moves away from where it should not sit.