



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

COMMISSIONER WILTON SIMPSON

Abandoned Grove Initiative Frequently Asked Questions

How is an abandoned grove defined for purposes of the initiative?

Abandoned Grove Definition

- No current production care
- No current commercial harvesting activities
- Minimal or no production value or no longer economically viable as a commercial citrus grove

Who is eligible to receive an Abandoned Grove Compliance Agreement?

- Any Grower/Caretaker with a valid Grower/Caretaker Compliance Agreement.

How do I benefit from an Abandoned Grove Compliance Agreement?

- The reclassification of the property once all conditions are met will reduce the tax assessment to a de minimus value of \$50 per acre as set forth in Section 193.461 (7) (a) Florida Statutes for ten years as long as:
 - o You must leave the land fallow or non-income producing and free of any volunteer citrus including sprouts, seedlings, or feral citrus.
 - o May replant citrus during the time the AGCA is in effect. The de minimus assessment is good for the full ten years, whether you leave it fallow, non-income producing or replant with citrus.
- It benefits the industry as well by removing abandoned groves that provide a source of pests and disease which could infect productive commercial citrus.

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

- Owner/grower contacts the local CHRP office to request a site verification survey **prior to** removing trees and the inspector will conduct an inspection for eligibility, or
- CHRP inspector site verifies a property in the course of regular survey duties, determines the eligibility of the property to qualify as abandoned and contacts the owner to see if interested in participating in the Abandoned Grove Initiative.
- If the owner chooses to participate in the program, all trees must be killed or removed including seedlings and sprouts at their own expense.

- Owner again contacts the local CHRP office to revisit the property to site verify the removal/destruction of the trees and if it has been completed, a Certificate of Destruction is completed, and an Abandoned Grove Compliance Agreement (AGCA) is issued to the owner.
- The owner presents the AGCA to the local property appraiser's office to request reclassification of the property for the reduced assessment.
- The CHRP office will perform site inspections once per year for the duration of the AGCA to be sure the property meets the terms and conditions of the agreement.
- Abandoned Grove Compliance Agreements are valid for ten years. Upon expiration, it is up to the local property appraiser to determine the land use and assessment.

What will the property appraiser require from me as a landowner?

- Most require the Abandoned Grove Compliance Agreement that is provided to the landowner along with the Certificate of Destruction when the citrus trees are confirmed destroyed by a CHRP representative.

Does the state have a program to remove the trees and pay the costs of removal? Is there any compensation available to the property owner?

- No, there is no state-provided removal program or compensation at this time.

I currently have an AGCA with a term of 5 years, will I receive an additional 5 years?

- If you currently have a valid AGCA that is in compliance with the terms and conditions of the agreement, then you will receive an amendment to sign to extend the term to a total of 10 years from the date of execution of the original agreement. You can reach out to your local CHRP office to inquire on receiving the AGCA amendment.

Do I need to submit the amendment to my local county property appraiser?

- Yes, you will need to submit the amendment paperwork to your county property appraiser's office. The paperwork will include a copy of the original AGCA and the executed amendment.

My AGCA expired prior to July 1, 2025, can I still receive an amendment?

- Unfortunately, no, the legislation stated that all valid AGCAs that were in effect as of July 1, 2025, are eligible for the extension.

What if I need more information?

Please contact our helpline, 1-888-397-1517. Or visit our website at [Abandoned Grove Initiative / Citrus Health Response Program / Plant Pests and Diseases / Pests and Diseases/ Agriculture Industry / Home - Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services \(fdacs.gov\)](https://www.fdaacs.gov/Abandoned-Grove-Initiative/Citrus-Health-Response-Program/Plant-Pests-and-Diseases/Pests-and-Diseases-Agriculture-Industry/Home)