



THE BATTLE OVER CYPRESS!!!???

Another Look

Cypress has been the center of an ongoing debate for quite some time now. “Mark it and thin it...” that is what most sawmills are saying is the only way for this beautiful species to truly prosper. Without thinning, Cypress and many other species will run the risk of over populating, causing it to dwarf. Most things need thinning....if you have too many cows in a pasture, too many mice in a cage or too many corn plants per acre there will never be enough “food” to support the increasing growth.

Baton Rouge’s local paper, The Advocate, put out an article on February 12th 2007 supporting both views. Below are a few of the highlights.....

“Small Part of the Picture....

Loggers, mulchers and the LA Forestry Association say the coast isn’t affected by cypress cutting. Areas close to the Gulf aren’t accessible to cut and take too much effort to be profitable. Cypress makes up less than 5% of timber cut in the state, said Buck Vandersteen, LFA executive director.

Industry advocates say that the majority of the cypress is cut for timber, and the leftover scraps contribute to most of the mulch. When full trees are mulched, it is at the landowners discretion, usually to wipe their land clean for better cypress regrowth, Vandersteen said. The history of private landowners shows that if they can profit by logging cypress on their land, they’ll do all they can to help forests regrow for continued profit. “We have so much more growth in cypress then we have harvesting,” Vandersteen said. He cites property partially logged by Glen Miller in the Lake Maurepas basin several years ago. That cutting was halted when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers decided a Clean Water Act permit was needed.

Cypress seedlings can be seen everywhere in the dense undergrowth. Mike Thomas, assistant chief of forest management with the state Department of Agriculture and Forestry, estimates the regrowth there at 700-800 seedlings per acre....”

Source: Wold, Amy “The Battle Over Cypress”. *The Advocate* 22 February, 2007 M1.