The Piedmont region of Virginia is known for its red clay soils, and anyone who has worked land around Rice and Farmville knows how much they shape what happens on a job site. South Atlantic Land Works plans every clearing project with that clay in mind.



Red clay holds water, turns slick and sticky when wet and bakes hard in the summer sun. When it is stripped bare, it erodes easily into gullies and stains streams with runoff. That is why South Atlantic Land Works favors forestry mulching. The mulch layer protects clay from direct rainfall, slows runoff and adds organic material that gradually improves the soil's structure.

Clay also affects equipment choice. Wide rubber tracks on a compact track loader spread weight and reduce rutting, letting the crew work more of the year without damaging the ground. Where grading is needed, the crew shapes clay to drain properly, which is essential for driveways, pads and fields in this part of Virginia.

Weather plays a part in scheduling. After several days of heavy rain, Piedmont clay can be too soft to work without causing damage, even with tracks. Rather than forcing a job in poor conditions, the crew will reschedule to protect the ground. In dry spells, work moves quickly, and grading can often be completed in the same visit as clearing.

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

Overgrown land can hide hazards such as old wells, wire, metal debris and holes. During the walk through, the crew looks out for anything that could be dangerous or damage equipment, and owners are encouraged to mention anything they know is out there. That care protects both the property and the machine.

Boundary lines are worth clearing even if the rest of the property stays wooded. A visible, walkable boundary makes it easier to spot trespass, maintain fences and settle any questions with neighbors. It also gives surveyors, foresters and buyers a clear sense of the property's shape.

Fence lines, field edges and pastures lost to scrub can be reclaimed quickly, often in a single visit, putting unused ground back into production. Every estimate is free. Mike walks the property first, listens to what you want to achieve and explains the approach before a single tree comes down, so there are no surprises once the work begins. Mulched ground can usually be seeded or planted directly, so pasture, food plots and lawns can be established quickly once the clearing is done.

If you *Additional info* have been putting off clearing that back acreage, now is the time. Call South Atlantic Land Works at 434-603-1964 and let Mike take a look.

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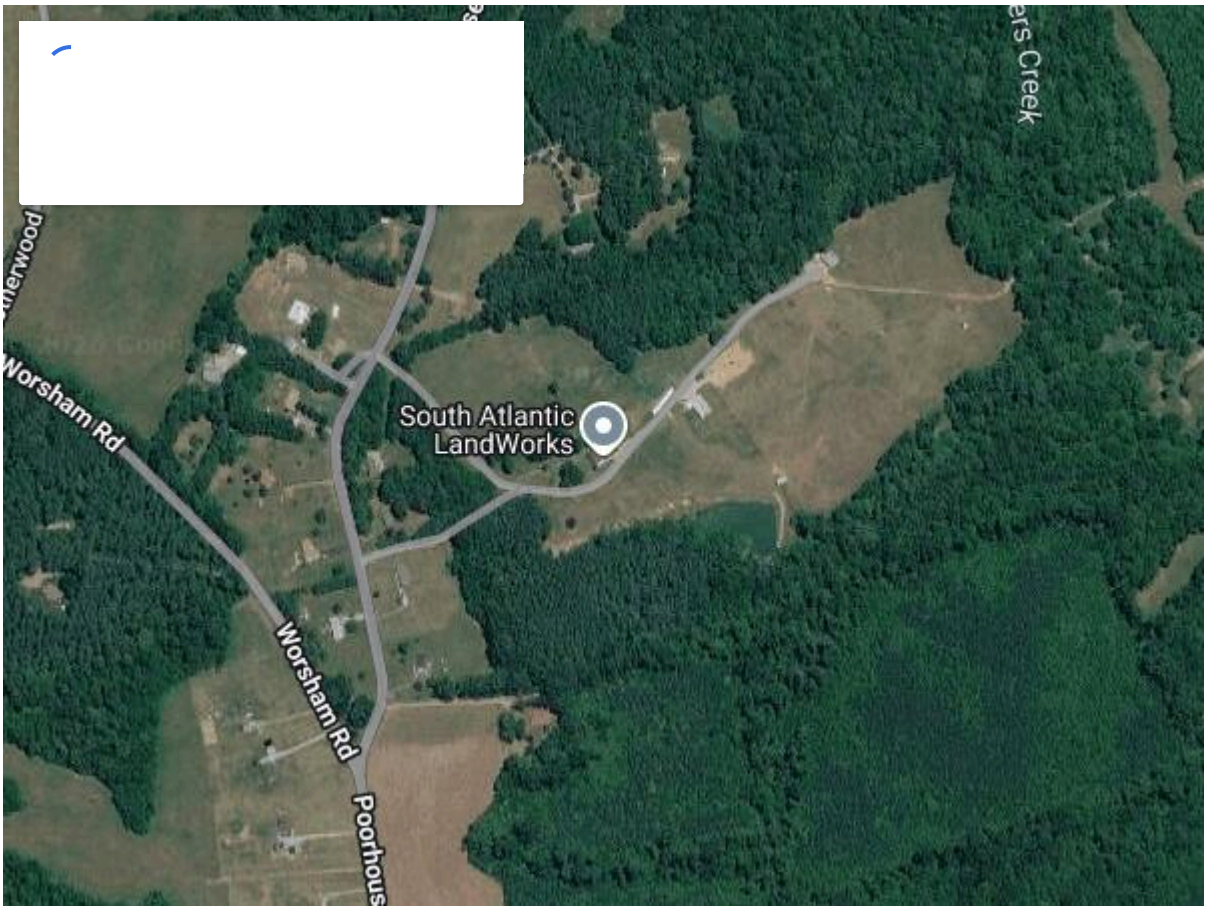

FAQ About Land Clearing Near Me How much does land clearing cost in Central Virginia? Land clearing costs depend on how thick the vegetation is, the size of the trees, the terrain and how much of the property you want opened up. A lot of light brush and saplings costs far less than mature hardwood on 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.