

# THE FOREST CONSERVATIONIST



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**RIFCO is an affiliate of the National Woodland Owner's Association**

## TREE FARM FALL TOUR      OCTOBER 6, 2018

### ASSESSING DEER BROWSE IMPACTS IN RI WOODLOTS: THE 2018 TREE FARM FALL TOUR IN FOSTER, RI



The Rhode Island Tree Farm Program is conducting its annual Fall Tour at the Went Tree Farm in Foster, RI on Saturday, October 6, 2018. The tour will begin at 9 AM, and the event should last until noon. We will access the Went Tree Farm from 25 Hartford Pike (Route 101), Foster, which is just east of Anan Wade Road. Signs will be posted at intersections.

This year's topic will focus on the options available for assessing what impacts the deer population may have on your woodlot. We will review a couple of citizen-science methods and will take a look at the exclosures and study-plots that have been established on the Went property by the RI DEM, Division of Fish and Wildlife for its state-wide study on this topic.

It is generally understood that the browsing impact of deer has had a major effect on the understory plants in our forests. Much of that vegetation includes wildflowers, rare plants, and young trees that are necessary for re-stocking our forests. Non-native invasive plants often fill the spaces left by the loss of native plants. What role does the high deer population play in the future of our forests here in RI??

Learn the answers to these questions, and more, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October!

The tour is being sponsored by the RI Tree Farm Program. It will be led by foresters from the Tree Farm Program and will include information on programs available through the USDA-NRCS and the state's Farm, Forest, Open Space Program.

The event is free and open to the public, and registration is not required. The event will be held rain or shine. Proper footwear and appropriate dress for the weather is required. For more information, contact RIFCO at (401)568-3421, or visit [www.ritreefarm.org](http://www.ritreefarm.org), where directions to the site will be posted.

The RI Tree Farm Program is a voluntary recognition program, part of the American Tree Farm System, promoting the sustainable management of our forests for wood, water, wildlife, and recreation since 1941.

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