

Soil Fertility Plot Walk

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Material and Methods

Site was selected and controlled burned (mitigated by the Florida Forestry Service) on July 29, 2016. Trees that were determined dead or compromised were removed prior to roto-tilling on August 6, 2016. Each block was 150 ft long by 40 ft wide (6000 ft²) and blocks were independently soil tested. Blocks were assigned (Figure 1) as control (CNT; pH = 4.8), fertilizer only (Fert; pH = 4.6), lime only (Lime; pH = 4.7), and lime and fertilizer (LF; pH = 4.8) and were divided into two types of cool-season forage crops (Earlyploid Ryegrass; 25 lbs/acre and Legend 567 Oats; 120 lbs/acre). Lime was applied at 1.5 tons/acre to the Lime and LF blocks on October 1, 2016. The site was dragged immediately prior to broadcast seeding by hand and rolled using a culti-packer. Both, the Fert and LF blocks were fertilized on January 10, 2017 using a 16-4-8 blend to supply 30 lbs N/acre, 7.5 lbs P₂O₅/acre, and 15 lbs K₂O/acre. These blocks will receive an additional 50 lbs N/acre in early March.

Figure 1. St. Johns County cool-season soil fertility demonstration

