

**Restore
the Earth
FOUNDATION**

REFORESTATION ON THE GULF COAST

*Transforming concern for the environment
into positive actions with tangible results!*



Restore the Earth Foundation Inc. (REF) is a 501c3, not-for-profit corporation, which is the catalyst for environmental conservation, protection, restoration, awareness and stewardship through collaborative partnerships. These partnerships together *take action* to mobilize human potential to restore the earth.

Restore the Earth Foundation Inc was born out of its founders' ability and experience to secure the funding required and their success in partnering with multiple, diverse community and other stakeholder groups to restore large scale environmental sites and critical ecosystems following natural disasters.



REF Gulf Coast Reforestation Locations

REF's Gulf Coast Reforestation Report

- Secured \$10 million in federal, state and matching donations
- Reforested 32,000 acres in six Mississippi coastal counties and five Louisiana parishes since 2005
- Engaged 4,817 volunteers in planting efforts
- Planted over 1 million+, 1-2 gallon, native trees
- Provided support for local economy and for community engagement
- Provided opportunities for environmental education
- Supported by collaborative partnerships
- Early project success with EKOgrown® native trees



Photos: Bald Cypress grown by ERS nursery



High Performance Natives!

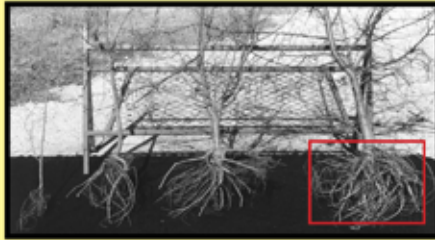


3 month EKO seedlings



1 gallon EKO/Rootmaker®

Root system comparisons - EKO vs Bareroot - round container vs Rootmaker® pot



The lacebark elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*) seedling at the right was grown under conditions that stimulated optimum horizontal root development with the Rootmaker® process. The tree seedlings to the left were grown under conditions less favorable to the stimulation of horizontal secondary roots. Most striking of all is the fact that all four trees are the same age and following the early seedling stage were grown for two years under identical conditions in the field.



3 gallon typical "round" pot on left showing **girdling** roots. EKOgrown® 3 gallon with Rootmaker® pot on right showing fibrous, robust, non girdling healthy root system.



Collaborative Partnerships

REF recognizes that the success and long-term sustainability of its initiatives requires ownership, partnership and support at the local level. As such, its most important relationships are those with regional, local and community stakeholders.

Restore the Earth Foundation Inc. partners in reforestation initiatives on the Gulf Coast include:

The Home Depot Foundation, Mississippi private landowners, USDA Farm Service Agency, Mississippi State University, State of Mississippi, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources Louisiana State University, Southeastern Louisiana University, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, New Orleans City Park, Audubon Louisiana Nature Center, Entergy Corporation, Comite Resources Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, LSU AgCenter, Restore Americas Estuaries, AmeriCorps, Common Ground Relief, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park, Barataria Preserve, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, National Parks Service, State of Louisiana, Replant South Mississippi, The Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain, McClatchy Company, South Mississippi local cities and community organizations, The Forestry Commission, and Matrix New World.

EKOgrown® is a proprietary growing process developed in collaboration with Rootmaker®. The high performance container trees are grown from native seed sources specific to the restoration site. EKOgrown trees are contract grown by local and regional nurseries, keeping funds in the community.

