



# ***CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM MID-CONTRACT BRUSH MANAGEMENT CP-15B, CP-29 and CP-30***

11/08

## **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - Minnesota**

### **Mechanical or Manual Control**

Methods for mechanical or manual treatments are suitable for areas with small infestations and young plants or in areas where chemicals are not practical. These methods work best with stem diameters less than 4 inches.

#### **Mowing**

For sites that are accessible via a tractor mounted mower: Spot mowing the infested area after the primary nesting season, will control the spread of most woody plants <4" in diameter and eventually kill the plants and deplete the seed bank.

#### **Pulling or Wrenching**

For sites that are inaccessible by tractor and mower: If stems are less than ½ inch in diameter hand pulling is effective since the whole root system is likely to be removed. This method works best if the soil is moist, not wet, and should not be tried in dried soil. Repeat treatments may be necessary as clearing the area may result in sprouting from any existing seed bank.

A weed wrench may be used for plants that are hard to pull or dig, up to 2.5 inches in diameter. This is a specially designed lever that grabs the stem so it can be pulled out.

#### **Stem Cutting**

Cutting stems will reduce the spread of infestation. Cut all stems present 2 to 6 inches above the base of the trunk. Tools such as hand pruners, loppers, pruning saws, brush cutters or chain saws, are all used to cut stems or trunks. Some species actively re-sprout and to eradicate the plants it may need to be done several times until the plants no longer sprout, or follow-up with a chemical application as noted below.

### **Chemical Control**

The proper chemical applied in the right amount at the right time is very effective in controlling woody vegetation. Chemical treatments work best when plants are storing energy. The most effective time for chemical application is mid-summer through late fall when the plant is moving sugars to the roots.

Keep in mind that herbicides containing the active ingredient glyphosate, is a broad spectrum herbicide and kills anything it touches. Other products are available specific to broadleaf and woody plants and is a safer choice for prairies and grasslands.

By law, herbicides may only be applied as per label instructions. ***Follow all label instructions when applying pesticides and application site restrictions.*** Refer to practice standard 595- Pest Management for additional recommendations.

#### **Cut Stump**

This is an effective method for controlling or eradicating woody vegetation. 'Cut Stump' refers to cutting off the trunk or stems and applying herbicide to the cut end(s). It is imperative that the herbicide is applied as soon as possible but no more than 2 hours later for most chemicals to be effective. The chemical can be applied with a squirt bottle, low volume sprayer, a wick or wand, or a paint brush. Soaking the cut end is not necessary since the herbicide concentration is sufficiently strong to kill the plant.

#### **Basal Bark**

The basal stem treatment works through the bark eliminating the need for cutting stems or trunks. Use on trees with stems less than 3 inches in diameter. A low volume sprayer is needed to use this method. Herbicide is applied directly to the bark from the root collar up to about 12 to 18 inches.

