

## Brush Management (314) for Controlling Invasive Plants

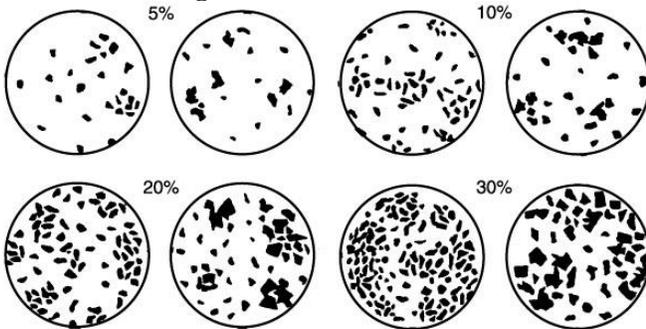
**Practice Life Span is 10 Years-** meaning only 1 payment for brush management can be made for the land-unit every 10 years. Planners are encouraged to work with landowners and applicators to negotiate 2 sprays in difficult sites before payments are made.

**Purpose of this document:** Is to help land managers make decisions about the most effective ways to control woody invasive plants by considering cost, sensitive environmental conditions and regulations.

- ✓ Prioritize control for species which are well adapted to the landscape and current site conditions
- ✓ Focus on plants which are in full sun and developing large amounts of seed

**Foliar Application:** applying herbicide directly to the leaves of the plant during the growing season with a backpack sprayer or truck mounted sprayer.

### Estimating Cover of Invasive Plants



**Average Chemical treatment with follow up-** areas with invasive plants estimated < 20%

**Difficult Chemical treatment-with follow up** areas with invasive plants estimated >20%

### Best Management Practices

- ✓ Encourage slower growing native plants by selectively cutting and/or spraying invasive plants
- ✓ Minimize overstory removal especially in richer soil types near invaded areas



Above: A backpack sprayer( foliar application)

### Foliar Application Advantages:

Cost effective for hedgerows, old fields, and in the forest understory  
 Herbicides can be applied at lower concentrations than with basal bark or cut stem.

Foliar sprayers can be mounted onto ATVs which can transport larger amounts of herbicide around large fields and can spray much further than typical backpack sprayers. Works well for infested areas.

### Foliar Application Disadvantages:

- Can only be done in the growing season- at least two weeks before a killing frost
- Difficult to spray only the invasive plants in dense hedge rows and thickets
- Dangerous and difficult to spray overhead in tall thickets

**Cut Stem Application:** cutting woody invasive plants typically > 1 inch in diameter with a chainsaw and immediately applying herbicide to the freshly cut stump.

### Cut Stem Advantages (Difficult-Chemical):

- Eliminates drift to other native plants
- Can be done in the winter (dry, non-snow conditions)
- For use in thickets where working with a backpack sprayer is not feasible
- When most of the foliage is well above head height and spraying vertically with a backpack sprayer is dangerous
- Works well for vines such as bittersweet

### Cut Stem Disadvantages (Difficult-Chemical):

- Not practical on larger acres with high densities of invasive plants.
- Once light hits the soil after the large tree-like invasive plant is killed, many invasive seeds are typically ready to germinate creating a need for foliar application anyway.
- Herbicides need to be mixed at stronger concentrations
- Often more expensive than foliar application
- Very labor intensive
- Stumps need to be treated within 2 hrs max after cutting
- Cut brush can be difficult to work around and/or dispose of

**Rotary Mowing “brush hog”** Is a control method primarily used for old fields and hedge rows to  
**Job Sheet –Brush Management (314)-Invasive Plant Control**

restore structure for wildlife, while reducing the size of the plant and the amount of seeds dispersed in the landscape. This practice is done every 3 years and for woody vegetation which is less than 2 inches in diameter. The best time to mow is early-August, during droughty conditions, before above ground energy stores are reallocated to the root systems and after nesting birds have fledged. But this practice can be done during any season that weather conditions allow. And is best done for pollinators after the first hard frost.



*Above: A tractor mowing an old field (“brush hog”)*

### **Mowing Invasive Plants >2” in diameter (use Early Successional-647)**



*Above (excavator mounted mower)*

Several areas which are reverting from agricultural use, old fields, field edges, and young forest are infested with invasive plants. To maintain these areas mow vegetation with an excavator mounted mower. This will allow for easier access to the site and allow the foliar application to better cover the re-sprouting invasive shrub.

### **General NH Laws for Invasive Plants:**

- All herbicide applications in aquatic habitat need a NH Special Permit
- All applications near public drinking water supplies, surface waters or wells needs a special permit.
- All herbicide applications are set back from wetlands and surface waters 50 feet without a special permit
- All herbicide within the designated shoreland needs a permit.
- All cut invasive plant material should be burned or disposed of on site. Permits are required for transporting invasive plants.
- Applications in the right of way need a permit.

### **For Permits & State Regulations Information:**

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