Site Preparation Using Herbicides

SPUH092507

PURPOSE: Herbicides are used to control vines, brambles, woody brush and trees on cutover sites before reforestation. Herbaceous weeds, grasses and broadleaf weeds may also be controlled.

Used correctly, herbicides often produce the most satisfactory site preparation results of any alternative methods and at a lower cost.

SELECTION OF HERBICIDES: Herbicides are site specific; each herbicide is best suited for a particular purpose on a given site. Factors influencing suitability are: type of vegetation to be controlled, soil type, time of year, proximity to a stream, sensitivity of surrounding areas to damage from herbicides and cost. For the proper herbicide or mix for a site, consult with a pesticide applicator certified by the State of Alabama.

EQUIPMENT: Herbicides may be applied as a broadcast (over the top) or directed spray (using backpack) for control of labeled species.

METHOD: Success depends on applying the correct amount of herbicide by the correct method and at the right time of year. Contact a registered forester with pesticide applicator certification in the State of Alabama to assist. Your local office of the Alabama Forestry Commission will provide a list of these professionals.

PRECAUTIONS: Follow label directions for mixing, handling, application and disposal of chemicals and containers. Use of any herbicide inconsistent with labeling is a violation of federal law.

CHECKING RESULTS: Unlike mechanical site preparation, results from site preparation using herbicides cannot be evaluated for several months after application. The landowner is advised to obtain a written guarantee from the vendor and wait until results are in before making payment. It is strongly recommended that the vendor be required to use the correct dye to color any herbicide applied as a liquid directly to the soil to facilitate inspecting the job.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS: All practices should follow Alabama's Best Management Practices for Forestry and have no adverse effect on threatened or endangered species or habitat.

Photo Credit: David J. Moorhead, The University of Georgia, www.forestryimages.org

This information is provided by the Alabama Forestry Commission
For more information please visit: www.forestry.alabama.gov