

Forest Management Annual Calendar

By Allen Varner, Stewardship Forester, Alabama Forestry Commission

Managing your forest is a full-time job and goes on all year long. Although working on your timberland is considered by many to be a labor of love, it doesn't take long to realize that just a few acres can provide a fellow with plenty of love and work him to death at the same time! Yet one of the beautiful things about owning and working your private forest is that each season – summer, fall, winter, and spring – brings around its own set of conditions, challenges, and opportunities to enhance your forest through proper management activities.

You may have read articles that promote having an up-to-date forest management plan for your property. Such a plan provides focus, and helps you structure your management activities so that you may achieve your goals. Your local Alabama Forestry Commission office can assist you with a Forest Stewardship Management Plan. Please take advantage of this free service.

One of the key components in your plan is the schedule of activities. With a five- to ten-year planning horizon, different management activities should take place at different times of the year to either maximize the activity's effectiveness or minimize potential harm to your forest. A schedule of activities also allows for planning ahead to accomplish the endeavors, and thinking at least six months in advance of the scheduled activity will help ensure that it is done in a timely manner.

This general planning calendar can help you schedule various forest management activities. Although not all-inclusive, it does list most major activities. As you begin to plan, take advantage of your local AFC office by contacting them for professional advice and services. ☎

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
Chemical Herbaceous Weed Control				
Chemical Site Preparation/Release				
Fire Breaks				
Food Plots				
Harvesting	<i>Always consult with your local AFC office before</i>			
Mechanical Site Preparation				
Order Seedlings				
Prescribed Burning				
Road Maintenance				
Site Preparation Burning				
SPB Inspection				
Tree Planting				



www.forestry.alabama.gov



MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<i>harvesting your timber. They can provide a list of professional forestry vendors to assist you.</i>							
						*	

* Containerized seedlings can be planted in November with adequate soil moisture.