Pine Release Using Herbicides

PURPOSE: Herbicides applied to vines, brambles, woody brush and trees in young pine stands will increase pine growth by controlling competition.

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, species of tree to be over-sprayed, soil type, time of year, proximity to a stream, age of seedlings to over spray, sensitivity of surrounding areas to damage from herbicides, cost and if a surfactant is needed.

For the proper herbicide or mix for a site, consult with a pesticide applicator certified by the State of Alabama.

EQUIPMENT: Methods vary from hand operation using a Solo-type sprayer to ground tractor-mounted sprayers. Aircraft, typically a helicopter, is also used.

METHOD: Release treatments may be applied as a broadcast or directed spray for control of labeled species. Directed spray applications may be made with low-volume hand-operated sprays in pine stands by targeting the unwanted vegetation and avoiding direct application to the pine.

Treatment may be conducted throughout the growing season. However, potential conifer injury is minimized by treating in the fall after formation of final conifer resting buds. Do not spray when seedlings are under stress.

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: For most herbicides, evidence of yellowing, wilting and dying should be apparent within three weeks under normal rainfall condition. Complete kill of some brush species may not occur for several months.

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

Photo Credit: Ron Halstead, www.forestryimages.org

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