

# Brush Management Grapevine Control

## **Conservation Practice WV Job Sheet**

**Code 314**



### **DEFINITION**

This practice pertains to the management or removal of woody (non-herbaceous or succulent) plants including those that are invasive and noxious.

### **PURPOSE**

Landowners can use this practice to restore or release certain vegetative communities to protect a resource such as soil or water quality.

This practice can be used to modify, maintain or enhance fish, wildlife including habitat for native pollinators.

### **CONDITION WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

This practice applies on forestland where the control of grapevines is desired.

This practice does not apply to removal of vegetation where a landuse change is desired. Refer to conservation practice standard (460) Land Clearing.

INFORMATION IN THIS JOB SHEET IS CONSIDERED PART OF THE CONSERVATION PLAN/CONTRACT.

## PRACTICE CRITERIA

Treatments for grapevines can be either mechanical or chemical. They may be used alone or in combination with one another. They are sometimes more effective and better maintained if they are used in combination or concurrently.

NRCS cannot develop chemical treatment recommendations. NRCS can provide some types chemical control references if they are necessary, but at a minimum refer to the NRCS pesticide screening information (Win-PST) provided with this job sheet if chemical application is required.

## GRAPEVINE CONTROL

Grapevines are deadened to stop present damage and reduce or prevent future damage to quality hardwood stands. Grapevine control should be applied in hardwood timber stands with a northern red oak site index of 60 or higher where growing high quality hardwoods is the primary objective. If the overall quality of the main stand is poor, there is little use in performing improvement practice to increase growth.



## WOODLAND PROTECTION

It is important for landowners to recognize threats to the health and productivity of their woodlands. Some of these threats, especially those posed by damaging wind, drought, and other weather conditions, cannot be controlled by landowners. However, landowners can participate in the protection of their woodlands from insect pests, diseases, uncontrolled fire, and livestock grazing.

### Uncontrolled Fire

Uncontrolled fires, or wildfires, may cause considerable damage to unprotected woodlands. In West Virginia, rapidly spreading and dangerous crown fires that kill mature trees outright are usually rare. However, ground fires are prevalent, especially in early spring before trees have foliated and in the fall after leaves have fallen. Ground fires may kill saplings and damage the bark and trunks of mature trees. Scars, or cat-faces, left on tree trunks by even relatively “cool” fires may significantly reduce the value of timber cut from the trees. Fire damage also reduces tree growth rates and makes trees more susceptible to insects, diseases, and drought.

### Livestock Grazing

Livestock grazing may be the most damaging and yet most preventable of all threats to woodland health and productivity. Cattle and other livestock may cause serious immediate damage to seedlings, saplings, and ground vegetation; what is not browsed by livestock will be trampled. In just a few years, the understory may be completely absent or replaced by less valuable species, such as ironwood and hawthorn. At the same time, livestock compact forest soils which in turn damages mature trees. Within 10 years, continued grazing causes weakening and mortality of the trees.

In addition, woodlands make very poor pasture; studies have shown that livestock lose weight when grazed in woodlands. Therefore, grazed woodlands result in loss of both livestock and natural resources values.

## **WILDLIFE**

Grapevines provide wildlife food and habitat. Careful consideration should be given to wildlife benefits when developing stand treatment prescriptions. If wildlife is the primary objective, grapevines should be left as they provide a source of soft mast. If grapevines are removed from a stand, existing grape arbors should be left intact since, in most cases, permanent damage has already occurred and removal of all vines is not practical. Consider retention of selected dead and dying trees, including down material, to enhance wildlife habitat values.

## **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

### **Operation**

Brush management practices must be applied using approved materials and procedures. Operations will comply with all local, State, and Federal laws and ordinances.

Success of the practice shall be determined by evaluating post-treatment regrowth of target species after sufficient time has passed to monitor the situation and gather reliable data. Length of evaluation periods will depend on the woody species being monitored, proximity of propagules (seeds, branches, and roots) to the site, transport mode of seeds (wind or animals), and methods and materials used.

The operator will develop a safety plan for individuals exposed to chemicals, including telephone numbers and addresses of emergency treatment centers and the telephone number for the nearest poison control center. The National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) telephone number in Corvallis, Oregon, may also be given for nonemergency information: **1-800-858-7384**, Monday to Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pacific Time. The national Chemical Transportation Emergency Center (CHEMTRAC) telephone number is **1-800-424-9300**.

Follow label requirements for mixing/loading setbacks from wells, intermittent streams and rivers, natural or impounded ponds and lakes, and reservoirs.

Post signs, according to label directions and/or Federal, State, Tribal, and local laws, around fields that have been treated. Follow restricted entry intervals.

Dispose of herbicides and herbicide containers in accordance with label directions and adhere to Federal, State, Tribal, and local regulations.

Read and follow label directions and maintain appropriate Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS). MSDS and pesticide labels may be accessed on the Internet at: <http://www.greenbook.net/>.

Calibrate application equipment according to recommendations before each seasonal use and with each major chemical and site change.

Replace worn nozzle tips, cracked hoses, and faulty gauges on spray equipment.

Maintain records of brush/shrub control for at least 2 years. Herbicide application records shall be in accordance with USDA Agricultural Marketing Service's Pesticide Recordkeeping Program and State-specific requirements.

### **Maintenance**

Following initial application, some regrowth, resprouting, or reoccurrence of brush may be expected. Spot treatment of individual plants or areas needing retreatment should be completed as needed while woody vegetation is small and most vulnerable to desired treatment procedures.

Review and update the plan periodically in order to—

Incorporate new integrated pest management technology.

Respond to grazing management and complex plant population changes.

Avoid the development of plant resistance to herbicide chemicals.

## SPECIFICATIONS

Site-specific requirements are listed on the following pages of this job sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the WV NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.

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<b>Client:</b>	<b>Farm #:</b>
<b>Field(s):</b>	<b>Tract #:</b>
<b>Designed By:</b>	<b>Location:</b>
<b>WV Registered Professional Forester No.</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Total Acres:</b>

PRACTICE SPECIFICATIONS - TO RELEASE DESIRED HIGH QUALITY HARDWOOD TREES FROM GRAPEVINES	
<p>This forest stand will be managed for quality hardwood sawtimber production. The stand currently consists of _____ species. The average stand diameter is _____ inches at breast height. The main stand trees are approximately _____ feet in height and a well-developed closed canopy is present. Presently, grapevines affect approximately _____ trees per acre. The overall quality of the trees in the main stand is _____. The northern red oak site index this stand is _____. Deadening grapevines will release tree crowns stopping present damage and reducing and/or preventing future damage. Improved crown health should result in increased tree growth rates in treated areas. Cut all grapevines that are attached to tree crowns at a point one to four feet above the ground line. Apply this practice during the dormant season (late fall – winter). Ideal conditions exist when there are a few inches of snow on the ground. Existing grape arbors should be left intact since, in most cases, permanent damage has already occurred and removal of all vines is not practical. In addition, grape arbors provide wildlife food and cover. A closed canopy will limit sprouting of cut vines - do not harvest timber in the treated area for three to five years following treatment. <b>If resprouting is a concern, describe the need for herbicide treatment following cutting below.</b></p> <p><b>ADDITIONAL NOTES:</b></p>	
HERBICIDE USE	
Herbicide Treatment Needed: <b>YES</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>NO</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to attached Herbicide Information If <b>Yes</b> , the following is required:	
<b>Primary soil type:</b>	<b>Application dates:</b>
<b>Estimated % pre-treatment density:</b>	<b>Second application dates (if applicable):</b>
<b>Planned % post-treatment target density:</b>	<b>Target plant growth stage at application:</b>
<b>Chemical to be Used:</b>	<b>WIN/PST risk assessment attached or included (To be completed by NRCS)</b>
<b>Chemical application method 1:</b>	<b>1 Chemical Application Method</b> – List as backpack sprayer, spray boom, aerial, spot or other (describe in the additional procedures section)
List any special mitigation, timing considerations or other factors (such as soil texture and organic matter content) that must be considered to ensure the safest, most effective herbicide application; or see the attached references. <b>Follow all label and safety requirements when applying herbicides.</b>	
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE	
Periodic inspections during and after treatment activities are necessary to ensure that purposes are achieved and resource damage is minimized, e.g., assessment of insects, disease and other pests, storm damage, and damage by trespass. The results of inspections shall determine the need for additional treatment under this practice.  <u>This practice is a pre-commercial improvement treatment. A plan for improved harvesting will need to be developed prior to harvesting in this area.</u>  Follow-up and ongoing management activities will be needed to obtain the desired results. Always wear protective gear and clothing when working in the woods. A hard hat should be worn at all times. Inspect the area during treatment to check for damage to the residual stand and following treatment to monitor growth rates and overall health of the stand.	

If needed, an aerial view or a side view of the practice can be shown below. Other relevant information, complementary practices and measures, and additional specifications may be included.

**Questions regarding the planning, application or maintenance of the Brush Management practice should be directed to:**

\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Planner Certification</b>
<p>This plan meets the requirements of West Virginia NRCS Conservation Practice Standard</p> <p>– Brush Management, Code 314.</p> <p>Signature_____Title_____Date_____</p>
<b>Certification of Practice Completion</b>
<p>This practice has been completed according to NRCS plans and specifications. (Indicate in Practice Specifications if there were any changes to the planned practice and amount.)</p> <p>Signature_____Title_____Date_____</p>

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