

Woody Cover Control – Fencelines/Woody Draws

Job Sheet

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC)
University of Missouri Extension – The School of Natural Resources

For:	County:
Field(s):	Farm #:
Date:	Tract #:
Designed By:	Contact Information:

WOODY COVER CONTROL ALONG FENCELINES AND WOODY DRAWS WILL IMPROVE UPLAND WILDLIFE HABITAT

PURPOSE:

Most fence lines and woody draws in Missouri do not provide adequate cover for upland wildlife. The trees have become too large and have shaded out the weeds and small shrubs that quail and rabbits depend on. Additionally, most of these woody draws and fencelines have been invaded by sod-forming grasses like tall fescue and smooth brome. Woody cover control in these areas will provide instant escape cover for small game and promote annual weed and shrub growth within one year.



BEFORE - NO COVER AT GROUND LEVEL



AFTER - INSTANT ESCAPE COVER

SPECIFICATIONS:

- Create 0.1 to 1.0 acre of dense woody cover per 5-40 acres of wildlife friendly habitat. The minimum size of an area to renovate is 30'x50'. It takes three, 30'x50' areas to equal 0.1 acre.
- If sod-forming grass is present (tall fescue, smooth brome, etc.), treat it with an approved contact herbicide before cutting trees. Refer to JS-BIOL-30, Controlling Undesirable Vegetation Job Sheet, for details.
- Use only chainsaws or tree shearers – no bulldozers. Leave trees where they fall or “windrow” them along the fence or woody draw. Do not push the trees into a dense pile. Refer to IS-MO666cut, Controlling Undesirable Trees and Shrubs Information Sheet, for some recommended control methods and treatments.
- Treat stumps of undesirable trees with an appropriate herbicide to prevent re-sprouting. Where shrubs do not exist in the understory, consider leaving some stumps untreated. Do not treat hedge tree stumps when renovating an old hedgerow.

- Do small sections at a time. Cut 50' long sections spaced out every 150 feet. Continue this process each year until the entire fenceline or woody draw has been treated.
- Cut **all** trees over 15 feet tall in the defined area. Leave native shrubs like dogwood or plum and an occasional hard or soft mast producing species like oak, walnut or persimmon.

MAINTENANCE:

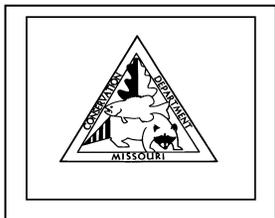
- Exclude livestock from treated areas.
- Use herbicides to suppress invasive vegetation and to control noxious weeds.
- Expect renovated woody draws/fencelines to last 5 to 10 years. Enhance these areas by periodically re-cutting woody sprouts or cut new areas along the woody draw/fenceline.

PRIMARY HABITAT CONSIDERATIONS:

- Provide natural cover source for quail and other wildlife.

Consult with NRCS, MDC, or University Extension for additional recommendations.

Comment:



The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternate means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC, 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.