

TREE/SHRUB SITE PREPARATION HEAVY SITE PREP
Georgia Practice Job Sheet-490

Prepared for: _____

Prepared by: _____

Farm: _____ Tract Number: _____ Date: _____



Definition

Treatment of areas to improve site conditions for establishing trees and/or shrubs.

Criteria

Heavy site preparation and intensity should be suitable for the specific site. The type and intensity of heavy site preparation will vary according to site location, species desired, ground cover and soils. Methods of heavy site preparation should be used which will minimize soil erosion. Georgia's Best Management Practices (BMPs) should be followed.

Mechanical Heavy Site Preparation:

Shearing

Shearing off large standing trees at ground level using sharpened angle and V-blades mounted on large crawler tractors. The blade should be kept just above ground level to avoid removal of topsoil.

Root Raking

Root raking usually follows shearing and is used to push the felled vegetation and other debris into windrows. Windrows should be placed on the contour at intervals of 100 to 300 feet depending on the slope and erodibility of the soil.

Chopping

Rolling drum choppers pulled behind tractors or skidders to knock down small diameter trees. Chopping is effective in providing short-term vegetation control while causing little soil erosion, and is a favorable choice on soils with moderate to severe erosion hazard. Chopping is a low-intensity method of site preparation.

Bedding

Use of special bedding harrows to form raised planting beds. These harrowed beds are shaped and packed by a rolling hourglass shaped drum which usually has a center mounted coulter. Beds are used where a high standing water table or poor surface drainage prohibits pine seedling establishment. Bedding is considered a high intensity method of site preparation due to exposing the soil on more than 50% of the site.

KG AND PILE - A site preparation method in which stumps are pushed up, sheared off, or split apart by a specially designed blade mounted on a bulldozer. Debris is then piled or placed in long rows (windrows) so that an area can be bedded or flat planted.



Note: *Mechanical site preparation includes shearing, raking subsoiling, chopping, windrowing, piling, bedding and other physical methods to cut, break apart or move logging debris, or to improve soil conditions following harvest.*

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Operation and maintenance requirements are not applicable for this practice.

Summary

Proper site preparation is essential for the successful regeneration of desired tree species. For recommendations, contact a consulting forester, Georgia Forestry Commission forester, an industry forester or a natural resource professional from the Natural Resources Conservation Service or the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service.

Certification Job Sheet:

Prepared by: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

Approved by: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

Installation:

Circle: YES or NO to the following:

Was heavy site preparation utilized correctly to regenerate a forest stand?
Circle: Yes or No

What type of heavy site preparation was utilized to accomplish practice _____?

If prescribe burning was utilized as a method of site prep, is there a burning plan present within the conservation plan? Circle yes or no

Is there a forest management plan present within the conservation plan?
Circle yes or no

I certify that this practice has been installed in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications.

Certification by: _____

Date: _____

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