



Brush Management - 314

Massachusetts Brush Management Job Sheet

Client:	Farm #:	Tract #:
Planned By:	Date:	

DEFINITION

Brush management is the removal, reduction, or manipulation of woody plants.

WHERE USED

This practice is typically used on pasture, forestland, or wildlife land where removal or reduction of woody vegetation is desired.



SPECIFICATIONS

Before starting a brush control treatment, it is important to identify the plants targeted for control and any non-target plants that you want to maintain and enhance. It is important to understand the life cycles of both types of plants and to time the treatment of the targeted plants when they are most vulnerable. When possible, try to avoid treatments when non-target plants could be impacted. The references section of this job sheet contains references that can be used to identify invasive plants and provides treatment recommendations.

MANAGEMENT METHODS

Methods used to accomplish control of the target species will include mechanical, chemical, biological or a combination of these methods.

Chemical

When using chemical control, spot treatment methods should be used whenever feasible to apply herbicides. Success depends on applying the right herbicide at the correct rate when weather conditions are favorable and when the species to be controlled is weakest. Some examples of chemical treatments are stump treatment, foliar application, and basal bark treatment.

Mechanical

Manually or mechanically removing brush species can be successful if done repeatedly over the growing season and over multiple years. Brushy species tend to re-sprout, and follow-up treatments will be necessary. Some examples of manual/mechanical methods are hand pulling, repeated cutting, and girdling. Properly dispose of invasive species materials after treatment to prevent reseeding or spread to new areas.



Biological

Biological control refers to the use of animals, fungi or diseases to control invasive populations. Control organisms usually come from the native range of the target species, and require a period of study to ensure that they will remain specific to the target population, and will not harm native species, crops, or other ornamental species. They require both federal and state permits for their use.

Grazing animals can also be utilized as biological control agents. Because grazing will only impact above ground vegetation, it may take multiple treatments to fully manage unwanted species. A grazing plan that includes stocking rates, residency period, and the grazing species will be required.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

- Brush management practices shall be applied using approved materials and procedures. Operations will comply with all local, state, and federal laws and ordinances.
- If using herbicides, keep records of all applications including plants/areas treated, amounts and types of herbicides used, and dates of application. This information will be important in evaluating the project's success, improving methodology, and identifying mistakes.
- Following the initial application, some regrowth, re-sprouting, or reoccurrence of brush should be expected. Evaluate the level of regrowth after sufficient time has passed to monitor the situation and gather reliable data. Length of evaluation period will depend on the woody species present. Spot treatment of individual plants or areas may be needed depending on species, timing, and methods of control.

Resources for More Information -

Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group: <http://www.massnrc.org/mipag/>

Element Stewardship Abstracts, published by the national office of The Nature Conservancy and available at [MapInvasives](#), summarize the existing literature on a given plant, and provide detailed information on life history, control methods and research needs.

Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE) is a web-based atlas of up to 100 species known or suspected to be invasive in the New England area.

Invasive Plant Disposal Guides are available on the web site of the [Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group](#).

Invasive Plant List (list of evaluated species, including definitions and criteria for evaluation) for Massachusetts:

http://www.massnrc.org/mipag/docs/MIPAG_FINDINGS_FINAL_042005.pdf

[Weed Science publications | Integrated Pest and Crop Management](#) from the University of Wisconsin, provide control recommendations for a variety of invasive species.



Massachusetts Brush Management Job Sheet

Purpose: (check all that apply)

	Restore/create the desired plant community		Maintain, modify or enhance fish and wildlife habitat
	Manage fuel loads to achieve desired conditions		Improve livestock forage accessibility, quality & quantity
	Restore desired vegetative cover to protect soils, control erosion, reduce sediment, improve water quality & enhance stream flow		Other: (Describe)

Targeted Woody Species, Densities, Treatment Method

Plant	Field / Stand	Current density (%)	Planned post-treatment density (%)	Mechanical	Chemical	Biological

Field/Stand Treatment Schedule (check all that apply)

Field/Stand	Treatment Schedule (check all that apply)				
	Year 1	20__	<input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical	<input type="checkbox"/> Chemical	<input type="checkbox"/> Biological
	Year 2 (if needed)	20__	<input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical	<input type="checkbox"/> Chemical	<input type="checkbox"/> Biological
	Year 3 (if needed)	20__	<input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical	<input type="checkbox"/> Chemical	<input type="checkbox"/> Biological
	Year 1	20__	<input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical	<input type="checkbox"/> Chemical	<input type="checkbox"/> Biological
	Year 2 (if needed)	20__	<input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical	<input type="checkbox"/> Chemical	<input type="checkbox"/> Biological
	Year 3 (if needed)	20__	<input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical	<input type="checkbox"/> Chemical	<input type="checkbox"/> Biological
	Year 1	20__	<input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical	<input type="checkbox"/> Chemical	<input type="checkbox"/> Biological
	Year 2 (if needed)	20__	<input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical	<input type="checkbox"/> Chemical	<input type="checkbox"/> Biological
	Year 3 (if needed)	20__	<input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical	<input type="checkbox"/> Chemical	<input type="checkbox"/> Biological

Mechanical Treatment Methods and Plan

Types of equipment to be used:		
Planned treatment period:		
Instructions/precautions:		
Treatment techniques or procedures to be followed:		

Chemical Treatment Methods and Plans - Apply products per label instructions and rates

Planned herbicide(s):		
WINPST hazard ratings:	Groundwater:	Surface Water:
Mitigation Techniques (where WIN-PST ratings "extra high", "high", or "intermediate"):		
Planned treatment period:		
Application techniques or procedures to be followed:		



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Biological Treatment Methods and Plan	
Biological agent or grazing animal to be used:	
Timing, frequency and duration of grazing:	
Instructions/precautions:	

Monitoring Plan	
Planned Monitoring Period:	
Procedure to be followed:	
Frequency of monitoring:	

Provide a map (may be attached) showing the location of the proposed practice and practice components.

Scale 1"= _____ ft. (NA indicates sketch not to scale; grid size=1/2" by 1/2")

RECORD OF COMPLETION AND CHECK OUT CERTIFICATION:

<i>Treated Acres:</i>	<i>Date Completed by Client:</i>	<i>Date Inspected:</i>	<i>Inspector:</i>
Notes:			

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