



Woody Residue Treatment - 384

Massachusetts Conservation Job Sheet

Client:	Farm #:	Tract #:
Planned By:	Date:	
Purpose (check all that apply):		
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce the risk of harmful insects and disease	<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce hazardous fuels	
<input type="checkbox"/> Protect/maintain air quality by reducing the risk of wildfire	<input type="checkbox"/> Improve access for management purposes	
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve access to forage for livestock and wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/> Develop renewable energy systems	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce the risk of harm to humans & livestock	<input type="checkbox"/> Enhance aesthetics	
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve the site for natural or artificial regeneration	<input type="checkbox"/> Improve the soil organic matter	



DEFINITION

The treatment of residual woody material that is created as a result of management activities or natural disturbances.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies on all lands needing woody residue treatment, except active cropland.

WOODY RESIDUE TREATMENT METHODS

Lop and Scatter –this method is often used in association with timber harvests. The logging residue or “slash” (treetops, branches, poor quality logs, etc.) are cut into smaller lengths and scattered evenly over the ground. This method facilitates meeting Massachusetts Slash Law height requirements, and provides additional benefits such as returning nutrients to the soil, providing wildlife habitat, and reducing the impacts of deer browsing. This is the preferred method of woody residue treatment when dispersed slash doesn’t conflict with management objectives.

Pile and Burn – this method involves mechanically (or manually) gathering and piling the woody residue and burning the piles in place, and is suited to areas with adequate spacing between residual trees or areas with few or no residual trees. If the woody residue was recently cut or downed, burning may need to be delayed until the material dries out. To reduce damage to the soil, a brush rake should be used to gather the material. Position the piles to prevent damage to crop trees and desirable vegetation. To minimize fire damage to undisturbed soils, locate burn piles on existing forest roads or disturbed areas. All burning associated with woody residue treatment must meet local and state burning regulations.

Chipping – this method entails the mechanical conversion of woody residue to chips and chunks of varying sizes. For safety purposes, humans and animals must be excluded from areas being treated by equipment that flails and throws chips and chunks. The chipped material can be removed from the site or spread evenly across the site. Do not spread chips thicker than 4 inches if revegetation is desired.

Crushing - This method involves the use of heavy equipment to drive over and crush the woody residue to a depth not exceeding 2 feet. The closer the crushed material is to the soil, the quicker decomposition will occur.

TIMING

The treatment shall coincide with the intended purposes and minimize impact on other resources. Operations involving the use of heavy equipment should be done during frozen ground conditions, to minimize damage to soil and nesting wildlife.

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SPECIFICATIONS

Residual woody material originating in pest quarantine areas must be treated in compliance with all current quarantines (refer to [Massachusetts Introduced Pests Outreach Project](#)).

In forested settings, retain a minimum of 25 % of the tops and branches on site to provide a source for organic matter cycling.

Comply with the [Massachusetts Slash Law](#) as follows:

- Do not leave hardwood slash more than 2 feet high above the ground within:
 - 40 feet of any woodland of another,
 - 40 feet of any railroad or outer edge of any publicly maintained road (or private road if it's wide enough to simultaneously pass 2 vehicles),
 - 20 feet of the outer edge of a forest or woods road.
- Do not leave softwood slash within:
 - 40 feet of any woodland of another,
 - 40 feet of any railroad or the outer edge of any publicly maintained road (or private road if it's wide enough to simultaneously pass 2 vehicles),
 - 25 feet of the edge of a forest or woods road,
 - More than 2 feet high above the ground between 40 and 100 feet of the outer edge of any publicly maintained road.
- Dispose of all slash in a manner that minimizes fire danger.
- Do not leave slash within 25 feet of any continuously flowing brook, stream, river, or any lake, pond or water supply.

Permits - The client is responsible for obtaining and complying with all applicable Federal, State, and local permits or approvals necessary for the implementation, operation, and maintenance of this conservation practice.

Additional Specifications:

Planned			
Field	Acreage	Treatment Method	Timing
Applied			
Field	Acreage Applied	Treatment Used	Applied Dates

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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")

PRACTICE CERTIFICATION

- 1) Complete the 'applied' section of the specification table.
- 2) Modify the practice location map if applicable.
- 3) Include additional notes as needed.
- 4) Complete the certification statement:

I certify that the installation meets does not meet NRCS standards and specifications and is in compliance not in compliance with any permits as applicable.

 Inspector

 Date Inspected

Additional Notes:

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