

BRUSH CONTROL FOR GRASSLAND IMPROVEMENT

Brush control for grassland improvement is achieved by removal of invasive woody plants and proper grazing or haying methods thereafter in order for desired grasses/forbs to become established. This will allow for desired grass/forb growth. If desirable grass/forb cover is not adequate to establish a good stand in the brush control area, then you will need to establish cover by seeding or interseeding grasses/forbs that are compatible with your grazing or haying objectives. In some cases a cover crop and or use of a non-selective herbicide to kill existing cover will be needed prior to planting grass (refer to seeding plan for proper methods of establishment).

HOW TO CONTROL BRUSH FOR GRASSLAND IMPROVEMENT

- 1) Determine brush species needing control and the cause for the brush invasion.
 - a. If existing grass/forb cover is such that it can out-compete brush by implementing a prescribed grazing system, this alternative should be utilized prior to incurring costs of brush control.
 - b. If the best areas for grass production are occupied by brush, target brush control activities on these areas first.
- 2) Consider controlling only the amount of brush that has invaded beyond historical levels. Brush will likely reappear in areas where it historically occurred after clearing, even on areas in excellent range condition.
- 3) Grazing areas cleared by mechanical means shall have grazing deferred as follows:
 - a. All grazing during the growing season shall be deferred until adequate grass/forb cover is established.
 - b. Dormant grazing can be initiated during winter months if there is adequate regrowth of desired vegetation.
 - c. At a minimum grazing should be deferred from the time clearing starts through the following growing season.
 - d. After grazing deferment a planned grazing system will be initiated.
 - e. When appropriate, haying according to a forage harvest management plan can also aid in controlling escape brush and establishing desirable vegetative cover.

- 4) Consider possible method(s) of brush control (a combination of methods may be necessary):

a. Shearing	b. Rotobating
c. Rolling choppers	d. Blading (dozer/tractor)
e. Grazing management (prescribed grazing systems, browsing livestock, etc)	f. Brush mowers
g. Portable saws	h. Prescribed burning
i. Refer to the current " Guide for Weed Management in Nebraska ". The weed management guide can be found at: http://www.ianrpubs.unl.edu/e-public/live/ec130/build/ec130.pdf	

- 5) Consider conditions in your pastures before choosing the best control method(s):

a. Kind(s), size, and amount of brush (resprouting)	b. Topography and soils
c. Ground cover for erosion control	d. Cost and efficacy of alternative treatments
e. Season of control	f. Growth stage of brush
g. Potential grazing use limitations	h. Will follow-up control be necessary
i. Need for grass seeding, or potential for re-establishment	
j. Special precautions to avoid damaging non-target species (such as chemical treatments that can affect nearby desirable trees, cause off-site damage, etc.)	

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF RE-OCCURRING BRUSH AFTER INITIAL TREATMENT

Operation and Maintenance: Following initial application of the control method, follow-up treatments of brush are required such as hand-cutting, spot treatment of labeled herbicides to control undesired brush that re-appear to prevent re-invasion and brush control failures. Some regrowth, resprouting, or reoccurrence of brush should be expected. Monitoring of reoccurring brush will be done annually and appropriate treatment applied within the first year following initial treatment and thereafter on an annual basis. Follow-up treatments using a combination of control methods or using a different control method than the initial treatment (mechanical, chemical, biological and/or prescribed burning) may be needed to maintain desired control.

PLAN FOR MECHANICAL BRUSH CONTROL

Name: _____ Program: _____ Date: _____
 Farm No.: _____ Tract No.: _____ Field No.(s): _____

	^{1/} Species of Brush to be Controlled	Method of clearing/removal / treatment of stumps with herbicide	^{2/} Acres treated	Date(s) to Clear/Remove Brush	Deferred Grazing (If Yes enter Dates)
Planned					
Actual					

^{1/} When herbicide applications are necessary include a chemical brush control plan as well (i.e. stump treatment, spot treatment of cleared areas, follow-up treatments etc.).

^{2/} List planned and applied clearing method (i.e. shearing, blading, etc.). Refer to attached map and/or sketch on back for areas where brush will be cleared/removed and areas to be avoided).

Trees/shrub species to Maintain and Other Requirements/Notes:

Slash Pile Treatment:

PRACTICE CERTIFICATION

I certify that I have completed the brush control practices required according to the specifications listed above.

Producer: _____ Date: _____

This practice meets the above specifications.

Conservationist: _____ Date: _____

PLAN FOR CHEMICAL BRUSH CONTROL

Name: _____ Program: _____ Date: _____
 Farm No.: _____ Tract No.: _____ Field No.(s): _____

	Species of Brush to be Controlled	^{1/} Chemical Application Method	^{2/} Herbicide and Application Rate per acres, and date / growth stage to apply	Acres to be Treated	Deferred Grazing (If Yes enter Dates)
Planned			Refer to the attached page(s) for species being controlled from the Guide for Weed Management in Nebraska for guidance on herbicide selection, rate and growth stage/date to apply.		
Actual					

^{1/} Refer to attached map and/or sketch on back for areas to be sprayed and areas to be avoided. List planned and applied method of application (i.e. aerial, floater, spot spray, etc.).

^{2/} Refer to current Guide for Weed Management in Nebraska and Product labels for detailed instructions. Herbicide applications shall be made according to label requirements and University of Nebraska recommendations. Equivalent products can be substituted. NRCS does not endorse one product over another.

Trees/shrub species to Maintain or Areas not to treat; and Other Requirements/Notes:

PRACTICE CERTIFICATION

I certify that I have completed the brush control practices required according to the specifications listed above.

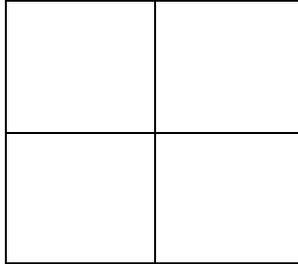
Producer: _____ Date: _____

This practice meets the above specifications.

Conservationist: _____ Date: _____

Sketch of Brush Control Area

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Insert a map, drawing, and/or narrative of the treatment area and list detailed areas to be treated, pattern of treatment (if applicable), and areas to be left undisturbed.