

## TREE/SHRUB SITE PREPARATION 490

### Conservation Practice Job Sheet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Farm Bill Program\ Participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Farm Bill Program\Contract No.

**Purpose:**

To prepare an area for natural or artificial regeneration. The extent of the preparation depends upon the trees, shrubs, or other vegetation on the site that needs to be removed to allow for the successful growth and survival of the trees or shrubs to be regenerated on the site.

Purpose (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Encourage natural regeneration of desirable woody plants.	<input type="checkbox"/> Artificial establishment of desirable woody plants.

**Describe the current condition of the site:**

- Cutover area after a tree harvest with few or no remaining trees > 5" dbh, logging slash, small trees/shrubs
- Cutover area with some remaining trees >5" dbh, logging slash, small trees/shrubs
- Cutover area with a lot of remaining trees >5" dbh, little logging slash, small tree/shrubs
- Old field with small trees/shrubs, vines, grasses, other herbaceous vegetation
- Old field with primarily grasses and other herbaceous vegetation
- Cutover or old field with a hard pan or compaction that will limit root growth
- Other:

Dbh = diameter breast height, the diameter of a tree measured at 4.5' above the ground.

Method*	Intensity**	Field	Acres
* Mechanical, Chemical, or Burning			
**Heavy, medium, or light			
<b>Timing of application</b> _____			

Indicate the method and intensity of the site preparation activity.

For chemical applications, use appropriate and approved herbicides for forestry and follow the herbicide label for timing and amount to use. *Important: Follow the label recommendations!* Get herbicide recommendations from licensed professionals, approved Technical Service Providers or the Texas Forest Service.

## General Considerations

1. The site preparation operation should expose and disturb only the minimum amount of soil necessary to meet the desired reforestation purpose. Maintain erosion control measures as necessary.
2. Avoid intensive site preparation on areas where the soils are highly erosive. Conduct soil disturbing components on the contour. The only exception to this should be when heavy machinery with chopper drums is used. These should be run up and down slopes instead of on the contour.
3. Avoid heavy equipment operation in wet soil conditions.
4. Bedding operations on sloping land should be done on the contour.
5. Ripping should be conducted on land with hard pans or compacted soil to aid in seedling establishment and survival. Ripping should be conducted on the contour if the area has some slope.
6. The boundaries of all riparian areas should be clearly marked prior to site preparation activities. Do not conduct mechanical site preparation in these areas. Minimize crossing streams, and only cross at right angles to the streams when crossing is necessary. Use only forest herbicides labeled for open water application in the riparian areas.
7. Use of herbicides will conform to label directions and will follow all applicable state and federal laws. All safety precautions on the label will be followed.
8. Herbicides should not be applied immediately before precipitation or after a rain while there is still runoff. Consider upcoming storm predictions to time chemical applications.
9. If windrows are used, then the piles should have gaps every 100 feet to allow for forestry equipment access and wildlife movement. Windrowing will be done in a manner to minimize the movement of soil into the piles and allow burning without excessive smoldering and associated smoke hazards. Windrows should be placed on the contour to reduce soil erosion problems.
10. If the area is to have a prescribed fire, fire lanes need to be constructed prior to the burn, and a prescribed burn plan should be in place.
11. Use of prescribed fire should follow the burn plan, be conducted under appropriate weather conditions and proper agencies notified on the day of the burn.
12. Access by vehicles or equipment during or after site preparation should be minimized to prevent erosion, compaction, and other site impacts.

### NRCS will:

Assist participants in preparing a plan to identify the type and intensity of site preparation necessary to obtain successful regeneration.

Assist the participant with the development of plans for supporting practices such as tree/shrub establishment (612), firebreaks (394), prescribed burning (338) and herbaceous weed control.

Measure and certify completed site preparation practices.

### Participant will:

\_\_\_\_\_ Conduct site preparation activities according to the agreed upon plan and general considerations listed above.

\_\_\_\_\_ Be ready to conduct the site preparation activities within the identified time frame.

\_\_\_\_\_ Follow NRCS Standards and Specifications for all cost shared practices that may include tree/shrub establishment, firebreaks, prescribed burning and herbicide treatments.

\*\*Payment will be made upon completion of the site preparation activities and post-operation check-out by NRCS personnel, a Technical Service Provider or the Texas Forest Service.

If needed, an aerial view or a side view of the practice can be shown below. Other relevant information, complementary practices and measures, and additional specifications may be included. A ToolKit map may be used to show the location and layout of the area to be site prepared.

Scale 1"=\_\_\_\_\_ ft. (NA indicates sketch not to scale: grid size=1/2" by 1/2")


**Participant \*\*Please READ\*\***

I understand the requirements of the practice and my questions concerning the practice have been answered. I further understand that a failure to adhere to the above requirements may jeopardize any and all payments.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Left photo is an area with several trees >5" dbh, possible site prep methods include light to medium mechanical, chemical, or prescribed burning, right photo is a harvesting operation where the type of site prep will depend upon the material left on the site.



These two areas below were similar to the left photo above before treatment: The area on the left received a prescribed burn and the one on the right had a mulching machine clean up the debris and understory vegetation. This site is now ready for natural regeneration. The area on the right was sheared and is being prescribed burned.



Cut over areas with significant logging debris - the prescription could include heavy mechanical on the left and medium to heavy on the center photo. Herbicides could be used on the site in the center to remove the small diameter trees and ground vegetation. Few or no trees left on the site >5" dbh. The far right is an old field with herbaceous and woody vegetation that can be prepared using herbicides or light mechanical treatments.



A ripping bar on the left (may be only one bar instead of 4) to break up a hard pan or compaction, a ground spray rig (center) mounted on a skidder. Photo on right is a helicopter equipped for aerial spraying of herbicides.



On the left is a rolling drum chopper pulled by a dozer, the center is a shearing operation and on the right is a heavy duty bedding plow. These are heavy mechanical operations.



**Typical Herbicides for Chemical Use in Forestry Applications as of 2011  
(Not a complete list, check the labeling for forestry applications)**

<b>Herbicide</b>	<b>Active Ingredient</b>	<b>Treatment</b>	<b>Considerations</b>	<b>Soil Activity</b>
<a href="#"><u>Accord XRT II</u></a>	Glyphosate	Site Prep/Single tree injection	Non-selective, can be used in single stem injection	None
<a href="#"><u>Forestry Garlon 4</u></a>	Triclopyr	Site Prep/cut stump treatments	Liquid, can be used as a basal treatment for release or a stump treatment	Low
<a href="#"><u>Garlon 3A</u></a>	Triclopyr	Site Prep/single tree injection	Liquid, can be used in individual tree injection for release	Low
<a href="#"><u>Arsenal AC</u></a>	Imazapyr	Site Prep/single tree injection	Phytoxic, liquid, can be foliar applied, or used in single stem injection	Medium
<a href="#"><u>Chopper</u></a>	Imazapyr	Site Prep/single tree injection	Liquid, can be use as a directed spray for release or sprayed under larger conifer trees	Medium
<a href="#"><u>One Step</u></a>	Imazapyr/ Glyphosate	Site Prep	Contains Surfactant	Medium
<a href="#"><u>Escort XP</u></a>	Metsulfuron methyl	Site Prep	Granule	High
<a href="#"><u>Oust Extra</u></a>	Sulfometuron Methyl/Metsulfuron methyl	Site Prep	Granule	High
<a href="#"><u>Oust XP</u></a>	Sulfometuron Methyl	Site Prep	Granule	High
<a href="#"><u>Velpar ULW</u></a>	Hexazinone	Site Prep	Granule	High
<a href="#"><u>Oustar</u></a>	Hexazinone / Sulfometuron Methyl	Site Prep	Granule	High

\* For further help with the chemical selections please contact your forester or local Texas Forest Service.

**It is a VIOLATION of FEDERAL LAW to use any of these products in a manner inconsistent with their labeling.**