

PURPOSE: The purpose of this practice is to prepare the site for tree planting by reducing the amount of standing herbaceous vegetation. This makes planting easier and helps ensure conditions for correct planting.

BACKGROUND: This practice is primarily used on open land having dense standing vegetation and little to no woody vegetation. It can be used as a stand-alone practice or in conjunction with other practices such as prescribed burning, subsoiling or herbicide application. Disking can be used to disrupt the roots of undesirable vegetation and to break up the soil surface to facilitate planting.



EQUIPMENT AND METHOD: Any type of rotary cutting device such as a bush-hog may be used. Conventional farm equipment is sufficient. If the site demands some type of right-of-way clearing equipment, too much woody vegetation is present for this activity.

Mow all vegetation on the site to a height of less than 3 inches. Remove residual debris by prescribed burning or leave in place.

When disking, always disk on contours to reduce erosion and avoid complete disking of slopes of 10 percent or more.

TIMING: Mowing in conjunction with herbicides for site preparation should be completed by early fall to allow for adequate re-growth of vegetation prior to applying herbicides.

Mowing as a stand-alone practice should occur after mid-August. Mowing with a summer application of herbicide should be completed by the end of July to allow for adequate regrowth of vegetation before herbicide application.

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