

Stewardship Notes

Indiana Division of Forestry



Follow-up Weed Control

Tree plantations require weed control in the first two to three years following planting to survive and grow well. One of the most common causes of planting failure is the lack of weed control treatment after planting. Following are some weed control treatment recommendations to help make your tree plantation successful.

Mowing is Not Enough!

The most damaging competition between seedlings and weeds occurs in the soil with the root systems. To eliminate this competition requires killing the weed, not just suppressing its growth. Herbicides, when used properly, provide effective control of weed growth through part or all of the growing season. Some herbicides, like Roundup*, are readily available from garden centers and are fairly simple to use. Be sure you read the label and understand how to use the herbicide prior to application!

Roundup can be used to control weeds and grasses that are actively growing at the time of application. Roundup can also damage or kill tree seedlings if it contacts leaves or other succulent plant parts, so direct the spray away from seedlings or shield them from the spray.

Other herbicides may be sprayed over the top of some tree species, and will control weed growth without damaging the seedlings. These herbicides require special care in application. Too little herbicide will result in poor weed control; too much will damage or kill seedlings. The advantage of these herbicides is the extended soil activity that kills weeds as they germinate through the first 60 to 90 days of the growing season. Once again, proper application is critical in regard to the quantity of herbicide applied per acre and the compatibility of the herbicide with the species in the planting.

The Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife has produced a publication, *Use of Herbicides in Establishing Woody Plants*, that provides application and compatibility information for several herbicides. To order, contact: (317) 232-4080

Purdue University has a publication titled FNR-135 *Weed Control for Tree and Shrub Seedlings*. This publication is available from:

Ag. Communication Service
Media Distribution Center
301 South 2nd Street
Lafayette, IN 47901-1232

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These publications can also be obtained from your district forester. Your district forester or district wildlife biologist can refer you to professionals experienced in tree plantation weed control who may be contracted to apply herbicides on your plantation.

**Mention of a specific product or brand name is not meant to be an endorsement of that product by the Division of Forestry or the State of Indiana, but is for identification purposes only.*