

How to get rid of undesirable trees

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In these uncertain financial times, everyone is looking for a way to save some money. However, ignoring the needs of your timber stand could cost you money in the future.

The effects that undesirable trees and invasive plants have on the growth and health of a landowner's preferred tree species is well-documented. Hack and squirt or the frill method is a cheap and effective way to control undesirable hardwoods, Chinese privet, chinaberry, tallowtree, mimosa and paulownia.

All you need is a hatchet, some gloves, a spray bottle full of herbicide and a good eye for identifying unwanted or low-value trees. Assistance from a son, daughter or spouse in working on the land is always a bonus. Passing along good stewardship values to your children and grandchildren is invaluable.

The hack-and-squirt method is best suited to trees at least 4 to 5 inches in diameter. The bark on larger trees is often too thick for most water-soluble sprays to penetrate, therefore it is necessary to provide a direct pathway for herbicide entry into the plant's vascular system. Use a hatchet to make a



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series of downward cuts in the bark around the entire circumference of the tree trunk. For most species, it takes about one cut for every 2 inches of trunk diameter. Frill cuts are overlapping cuts in the tree bark

around the stem. Immediately apply the selected herbicide into the cuts. Avoid application during heavy upward sap flow in the spring, when sap flowing out of the wound will prevent

good absorption. Apply herbicides registered for this purpose undiluted or in dilution ratios from one-half to one-quarter strength. Read the product label to determine the appropriate dilution.

Amine formulations of Garlon, Grazon and 2,4-D are generally more effective than esters. Roundup undiluted or half-strength is excellent for hack-and-squirt applications.

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Good in-depth articles about controlling invasives and other undesirable plants can be found on the Alabama Forestry Commission website (www.forestry.alabama.gov) and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System website (www.aces.edu). You may also want to check with your local USDA Service Center about the possibility of cost-sharing funds for this practice.

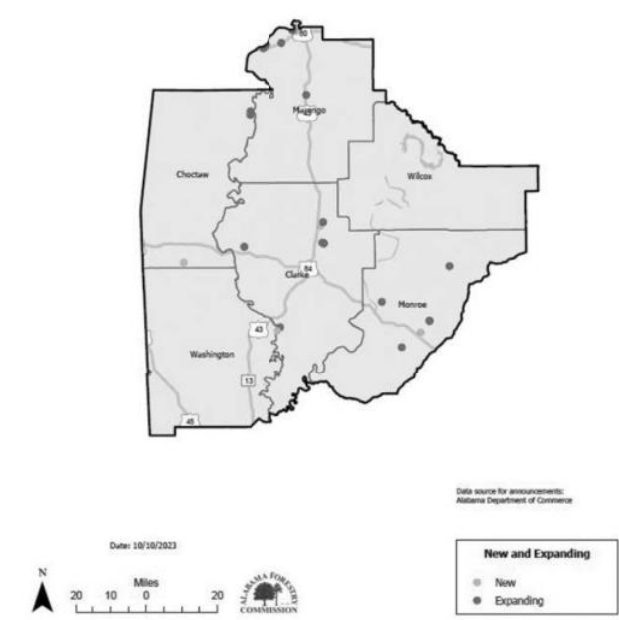
This article is adapted from an article written by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service state staff forester Tim Albritton and published in Alabama's Treasured Forests magazine.

Clarke County and Surrounding Area Wood-based Job Density



Clarke County and Surrounding Area Recent Expansions (2016 – 2022)

Source: AIDT/Lightcast Q3 2023



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Clarke County leads state in severance products

STAFF REPORT

Alabama timberland covers 23 million acres, the third-largest commercial forestland in the United State.

“Forests and the forest products industry impact every one of Alabama’s 67 counties. Forest industry, including logging and trucking, provides much needed employment and growth opportunities to the rural parts of this state, along with economic returns to landowners who hold timberland,” Rick Oates, State Forester Alabama Forestry Commission.

- If reserved timber — such as national wildlife refuges and defined wilderness areas — is included, Alabama forestland covers 23.1 million acres.
- Clarke County has 738,678 acres of timberland. The breakdown is 423,628 acres in softwood or pines, 216,151 acres in hardwoods and 98,899 acres in a mixture of hardwood/pine.
- There are only 12 counties in the state with more than 1 million tons annually in total severance (including pine and hardwood sawtimber, pulpwood and poles). Clarke County led the state with approximately 1,813,570 tons in 2022.

Information courtesy of the Alabama Forestry Commission’s 2022 Forest Resource.



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