Invasive Woody Species Control:

Strategies for removal

Invasive tree species if left unaddressed can spread quickly, and be an uphill battle to remove from native prairies.

Invasive woody species:

Minnesota has many varieties of invasive woody species, and also some native varieties that have invasive qualities, such as the Eastern red Cedar which spreads across prairies very quickly.

- Once established , tree removal becomes more difficult and more expensive, TIMING plays a big factor in suppressing the spread of these invasive woody species. Seedlings and trees that are under 2” in diameter can be controlled by fire, chemical, or mechanical means
- Once trees reach a size larger than 3” in diameter, chemical can be used but mechanical removal becomes the most viable option, but can also be the most time consuming and expensive.

Eastern Red Cedar

Buckthorn

Siberian Elm

Smooth Sumac

Russian Olive

Removal methods: Mechanical

Mechanical removal can be achieved in a variety of ways, and is dependent upon the size and scope of the invasive problem. For trees or saplings that are of a small diameter, fire can be an effective tool in removing trees while also reinvigorating native grass growth. Eastern Red Cedars are very susceptible to fire. For trees that are too large for fire, front end attachments for tractors or skid steer vehicles can be used to cut trees at the base. For small trees, approximately 1-2" in size can be removed with brush clearing tools shown below.

Chemical Control:

When dealing with buckthorn or other varieties than sprout from the stump when cut, chemical control is necessary to combat regrowth. Buckthorn will come back stronger if left untreated at the stump. Common herbicides used for tree removal are Glyphosate (roundup) at a concentration of greater than 25%, Tricopyr (Garlon) at a greater than 8% concentration or Pathfinder II which is a ready-to-use product. ***Please remember to read herbicide labels before each use, and follow label directions. For specific recommendations not cover by the label, call your distributor or manufacturer representative.***

MAKE SURE YOU TREAT AFTER YOU CUT! Untreated stumps sprout back very vigorously the next year (see below).

Chemical girdling: herbicide sprayed into a groove

Basal spray: herbicide directly applied this method will require additional chemical to penetrate the bark

Please consult with your local USDA Service Center for a more in depth look at your site's specific tree removal strategy.