

# BRANCHING OUT

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The mark of responsible forestry

# columbia

## FOREST PRODUCTS®

### FSC® HELPS COLUMBIA DIFFERENTIATE

A steady focus on innovation has helped fuel Columbia Forest Products' rise to become the leading hardwood plywood and decorative veneer manufacturer in North America. From its embrace of Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC) certification in 1998 to its introduction of formaldehyde-free PureBond® veneer panels in 2005, the company innovates to stay relevant – and to stay ahead of its competition.

Ed Woods, Columbia's vice president of corporate strategy noted, "markets are trending toward products that have a good environmental story. When I first started in the forest products industry in the 1980s, first-party claims were not viewed as trustworthy. Independent, third-party certification late in the 90s for Columbia was a key to changing that," he added.

Columbia's mission made the Forest Stewardship Council a natural fit for the organization. Columbia was the first decorative hardwood plywood and veneer manufacturer to earn FSC chain-of-custody certification. Over the years, FSC helped Columbia's plywood and veneer products stand out in the marketplace, aligning with the company's ongoing commitment to be "forever mindful of the ground we live on."

Columbia's mill in Old Fort, North Carolina sits amidst a rolling landscape of family woodlands. Managing a group certificate covering more than 100,000 acres, Columbia consults with small woodland owners to earn and maintain FSC certification. The goal is twofold: to advance the company's stewardship mission, and to ensure sufficient supply of FSC inputs to its mill to meet growing demand.

Columbia aims to improve the productivity and health of forests in the southeastern US through responsible management. Its mills are located in regions with abundant forest resources and Columbia uses FSC Forest Management to ensure that forest resources such as wildlife, water, and aesthetics are also cared for.

Caring for forests begins with the landowners who manage them. Forest management is a partnership between Columbia and the landowners who grow timber and care for the resource. We rely on their good stewardship of the forest resource to ensure that forests are healthy and sustainable and continue to adorn our landscapes. Without forests and the people who have the long-term vision to grow and care for them, our mills would be idle and homeowners would not know the joy and warmth of wood products.

## WILDLIFE CALENDAR—NOVEMBER

*Fall is a good time to  
plant fruit trees for  
wildlife*

At last, deer season for many folks who enjoy hunting! White-tail deer breeding season peaks in November in the southeast.

Ducks begin to migrate, wild turkeys form winter flocks, and owls and hawks begin to establish territories prior to mating season.

Now is a good time to disk old fields and fire breaks. Disking around fields creates early successional habitat—allowing native forbs, grasses, and herbs to grow. If you are trying to eliminate

non-native cool season grasses such as fescue, October and November are the best times to spray using non-selective herbicides. Spraying at this time doesn't harm native warm season grasses since they are dormant. This is a good time to begin planting native warm season grasses.

Fall is an excellent time to plant trees. Particularly fruit trees for wildlife. Plums, apples, crabapples, persimmon, and elderberry are good choices. For trees out in the open, fertilize and

prune as needed. For trees in the forest, consider release treatments to increase growth and vigor of selected trees.

Build brush piles from pruned limbs, placing larger limbs on the bottom.

Clean out duck boxes and bluebird houses. Start keeping bird feeders full.

Condensed from Forestry and Fishery Newsletter, University of Tenn., Craig A. Harper

## SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

The spotted lanternfly is an invasive pest that attacks hardwood trees, fruit trees, pines trees, and grapes. The wide range of species that it attacks and feeds on make this one of the more dangerous pests introduced into the US. The insect has been spotted in New York, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. It is native to China, Japan, India, and South Korea.

The insect is spread by egg masses, which it lays on smooth surfaces, such as bricks, stones, and tree bark. Unfortunately, they also lay eggs on vehicles, or railroad cars which can travel great distances and introduce the pests into the environment. The eggs hatch in spring or early summer and begin sucking sap from young stems and leaves of host plants.

As the nymphs develop, they are black with white spots and appear "tick-like." They are about 1 cm long at this stage.



As they mature, they develop red patches on their body and grow to over 2 cm long.



The adults appear in late July and focus their feeding on the Tree-of-Heaven, their preferred host tree.

The insects secrete a honeydew-like fluid that builds up on the tree or surrounding plants. Often it develops a black sooty mold fungus on its surface.



If you find an insect that you suspect is the spotted lanternfly, please contact your local Extension Office.

Condensed from USDA Pest Alert—Spotted Lanternfly



Adult spotted lanternfly

## HABITAT FOR BLACK BEAR

The old saying, “Be careful what you wish for” couldn’t apply more to attracting bear. Once you have fed a bear, he will return again and again, so if you live in a residential area, stop reading now—do not try to bring a bear into your neighborhood. He will become a nuisance and be euthanized.

If you have timberland and would like to see bear in your woods, you need to evaluate habitat at a landscape level to see if it supports black bear. Black bear roam across several square miles, but they prefer mature hardwood forests with

most producing trees and areas of dense cover.

General recommendations for improving bear habitat are to maintain mast producing trees such as oaks, cherries, sassafras, and serviceberry. Make sure to protect streamside management zones and consider making them wider than state recommendations. These are essentially no cut zones along creeks. Also, avoid clearcutting if you want to attract bear. This may mean forgoing some economic returns on forest management to increase bear population.

Planting fruit and nut trees will help attract bear to your property. You also want to maintain large den trees and limit access and disturbance to remote areas of your forestland. In these sanctuary areas, plant fruit bearing shrubs, grains, or corn to provide food and enhance cover.

Successful black bear management will mean working together with your neighbors to create a large enough habitat. Controlling access to your property is another key element to ensure that you can attract black bear and keep them.



## MANAGEMENT FOR RUFFED-GROUSE

Over 50 years ago, agriculture and forestry practices provided excellent habitat for ruffed-grouse. Farmland was allowed to “rest” for a few years which created what is known as early successional habitat. This is an area with native herbs, forbs, and shrubs. Or what most of us would call a weedy shrub thicket. It is critical habitat for the ruffed-grouse. Today, agriculture tends to be more intensive and resting land is planted in clovers or other nitrogen fixing plants instead of growing into natural vegetation.

Early successional habitat is what is often missing when it comes to grouse management. This is created by clearcutting a 10 to 15 acre section of your property and initially leaving it alone. If your property is large

enough, you can create several of these cuts across the landscape. Be sure to leave soft mast producing plants such as: fruit trees, dogwood, grapevines, pawpaw, elderberry, etc. Blackberry and blueberry will often fill in open places and they are beneficial as well. This type of habitat will need occasional prescribed burning to maintain it, so locate it where this is feasible. These areas are needed for brood habitat and nesting cover.

Ruffed grouse also need young forests with drumming logs on every acre. Young forest is around 15 to 20 years old and has a lot of 2 to 8 inch dbh trees. This is created by cutting timber and allowing it to naturally regenerate. It is important to leave some mature trees

to cut down later and leave on the ground 5 or 10 years after the initial timber cutting takes place. These will become drumming logs for male grouse. Listening to grouse drumming is something everyone needs to experience! These areas are the nesting and breeding habitats that grouse prefer.

These habitats need to be within intermediate to mature forests to provide some cover and diversity of habitat. Ruffed grouse need a little of everything to be successful. Maintaining different age stands adjacent to each other on your property will allow for successful ruffed-grouse management. This type of habitat also favors song birds, small game such as rabbit and fox, wild turkey, and whitetail deer.

*Early successional habitat is characterized by herbs, forbs, weedy areas and shrub thickets. It is critical for successful wildlife management.*

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## SURVIVAL SKILLS

Fall is a popular time for hiking, hunting, and being in the woods, away from the relative safety of our vehicles, or even miles away from the nearest road. While most of us won't end up like Tom Hanks and be stranded on an island in the Pacific without so much as a lighter, how many of us are prepared for a fall that breaks a leg when we are a mile away from the car? Did you remember to take your phone on that short hike? What should you bring with you for that half day hike?

Well, here is a list of items that experts recommend you take with you hunting or even on a short hike in the national forest. With a little planning, you can fit most of these items in a small pack that can clip on your belt or go in a day pack.

**Map, GPS, compass**—Helps to at least have a map of where you are going.

**Flashlight**—besides lighting up the night, can also be used for signaling.

### Cell phone

**Food and water**—You need a gallon water per day. Hiking may require even more. Pack some protein bars, beef jerky, or chocolate for calories.

**Warm clothing**—avoid cotton, and dress in layers. Pack a light jacket; in some areas, weather can change quickly and drastically.

**Rain gear**—A little planning by checking the local forecast can make the difference between adventure and miserableness outdoors.

### Sunglasses and sunscreen

**First aid kit**—Don't forget to pack prescriptions along with ibuprofen and aspirin. Allergy medications and epi-pens along with the traditional band-aids and antibiotic ointment.

### Knife or multipurpose tool

**Means to build a fire**—Fire keeps you warm, improves your attitude, and can be a signal so help can find you. Think Bic lighter, or even the magnesium fire starter from your Boy/Girl Scout days.

**Way to treat water**—filter straw from an outdoor center or old fashioned iodine tablets. Never trust water from a spring on the trail.

**Whistle**—load shrieks from a whistle can help ward off wildlife and help searchers locate you.

**Shelter**—at the very least a space blanket from the camping section of most stores.

**Paracord**—25 to 50 feet can come in handy. If you have room, you might also consider some wire or a small amount of duct tape.

### Insect repellent

**Survivor attitude**—be prepared and don't lose hope.

This may seem like a long list, but if you fall and are injured and unable to walk back to your vehicle, how many of these items would you want with you? You may go through life and never need the items in a survival pack while hiking. The purpose of carrying a survival pack is for that one time you have an accident. Or maybe it would be useful if you come across someone in need of help.

Be safe out there and happy hiking!

## WE'RE ON THE WEB!

You can visit our site at: [www.columbiaforestproducts.com](http://www.columbiaforestproducts.com).