

BRANCHING OUT

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Controlling Access* 2
- Manage for Turkey* 2
- Ginseng* 3
- Trees for wildlife* 3
- Ways to Kill a Tree* 4



The Rainforest Alliance works to conserve biodiversity and ensure sustainable livelihoods by transforming land-use practices, business practices, and consumer behavior. FSC® certified by the Rainforest Alliance



The mark of responsible forestry

columbia

FOREST PRODUCTS™

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR FALL LEAVES?



1 _____



2 _____



3 _____



4 _____



5 _____



6 _____



7 _____



8 _____



9 _____



10 _____

Answers inside

Team up with your neighbors to improve policing efforts on your properties

Answers to leaf quiz:

1. Red maple
2. Sweetgum
3. Sycamore
4. Northern red oak
5. Buckeye
6. Yellow-poplar
7. Dogwood
8. Sassafras
9. White oak
10. Aspen

Eastern wild turkey need a mixture of open areas and mature woodland to thrive

CONTROLLING ACCESS

One of the most effective management tools for forestland owners is a simple gate to control access into your property. A gate across a road will turn away most people who would otherwise trespass on your property.

The more remote portions of your property can be a target for dumping trash, poaching wildlife, drug manufacturing, and stealing mature timber.

The first step you should

take is to clearly mark and post your boundary lines. Different states have laws regarding the color of paint that you use and its meaning. Next, use gates to control access roads to your property. Be sure that you have the legal right to do this and that you are not closing off someone's right-of-way across your property. Consider closing off unauthorized ATV trails as well.

Working with your neighbors

to control access as well. This helps eliminate access from your neighbors roads. It also puts more "eyes on your forest" when you and your neighbors team up your policing efforts.

Lastly, always report trespassing to local law enforcement. Consider working with state wildlife officers when dealing with poachers on your property.

MANAGING FOR EASTERN WILD TURKEY

The eastern wild turkey has seen explosive population growth over the last 15 years in the southeast. Hunting wild turkey is a favorite pastime and it's not too hard to see one once you master the slate call or the mouth call.

Wild turkey need a mixture of open and forested land to thrive. The size and distribution of open areas are important with a system of well dispersed smaller clearings being most favorable. Turkeys typically do not use the center of clearings larger than 20 acres. Turkeys prefer mature woodlands comprised of a mixture of tree species with open understories growing with herbaceous plants. Turkeys usually select areas with dense brush, tall grass and fallen tree tops (i.e., recent clear cuts) for nesting. If turkey are a primary goal of owning woodland, then consider longer rotation ages of 100 to 120 years.

Wild turkey eat grass, forbs, insects, seeds, berries, and acorns. Keeping mature oak and hickory trees scattered throughout your property will provide hard mast (acorns and nuts) for all the wildlife on your property. Soft mast (ie: berries) is also important for turkey. You can plant blackberries and blueberries, or even apple trees. Wild turkey will eat dogwood and huckleberries as well.

Even-aged management is the recommended silviculture treatment to improve turkey habitat. If you have enough acreage, you should consider managing it in 40 acre units to create different age classes. Ideally, you need a mature stand with an open understory, thinned stands with periodic controlled burning, and open areas in early successional habitat.

Open areas with grass/forb/legume mixtures are needed

for young turkeys. Mowing and other mechanical means should be employed to keep these habitats in a condition featuring moderate herbaceous growth and high insect levels. Fertilizing and liming are generally not necessary as heavy forage production prohibits turkey use. Disking fields encourages native plant diversity and generally improves habitat suitability as brood range. Mowing and disking should not be conducted during the nesting season (May-June).

Turkey prefer springs and seeps for their water. It is recommended to have a couple water features per acre to attract turkey and wildlife in general. Protect these areas with a 50 to 100 foot forested buffer, depending on steepness of terrain.

Condensed from Virginia Department of Forestry, Managing for Eastern Wild Turkey

GINSENG

Ginseng has been harvested from the mountains for many years. It is thought to boost the immune system and improve overall well being both physically and mentally.

Many people are planting ginseng in their forests under the tree canopy to simulate the characteristics of wild ginseng. Fast-grown and fertilized ginseng does not have the same medicinal benefits and is vastly cheaper in the market place. However, wild simulated ginseng sells for about the same as wild ginseng, with prices in 2016 expecting to reach

\$500 per dry pound.

Ginseng needs moist, but well-drained and fertile soils. It needs north or east facing slopes and shade from a tree canopy. If you are considering planting seeds in your forest, choose an area that is not visible from roads and trails as well. You should clear the understory vegetation in 5 foot wide rows for best results.

Seeds should be planted in the fall, usually around September. Rake away the leaf litter layer and plant seeds about half an inch deep using a spade, and 6 inches

apart. 1 or 2 year old seedlings can also be planted, Rake the leaf layer back over the soil.

At this point, there is little maintenance required other than managing animals and watering during droughts if possible.

Ginseng begins producing its red berries after 4 or 5 years. Seeds require special handling before planting. Information is readily available from state extension. The roots should be ready for harvest after 8 or 9 years.



TREES FOR WILDLIFE

Many wildlife depend on certain species of trees and shrubs to survive. Trees provide food, nesting, winter cover, and places to perch among other things.

Den Trees

Den trees are large live trees that have hollow places to shelter wildlife. Woodpeckers often start these holes and they are enlarged and used by species such as owls and raccoons. Other birds, as well as mammals like squirrels and opossums use these as well. These are often referred to as "wildlife" trees in a forest management plan and it is recommended to keep these trees. It's a good idea to leave a buffer around them and protect them from root damage

from machinery.

Mast Producing Trees

Mast, or fruit from a tree is either hard, such as acorns and nuts from oaks and hickories; or soft, like the fruits from blackgum, dogwood, or black cherry. Oaks are probably the most important source of mast and nearly all mammals in the forest eat their acorns. Quail, ruffed-grouse, and turkey also utilize this food source. Oaks begin producing consistent acorn crops around age 50, so you should leave some mature oaks, both red and white, scattered throughout your woodland for wildlife and game species. Leave even more if hunting and wildlife are primary management objectives. In general, 2 to

3 trees, 12 inches diameter at 4 feet and larger should be left per acre for wildlife.

Snag Trees

Snags are standing dead trees in the forest. They provide valuable nesting and perching sites for birds and small mammals like squirrels and bats. Snag trees attract insects that breakdown dead wood and insects provide a source of food for wildlife. You should try to maintain 3 to 7 snag trees per acre for wildlife. However, dead trees that are close to facilities or roads should be removed for safety concerns.

Condensed from Trees for Wildlife, R. Cantrell, W. Minser, M. King, UT Extension



Corporate Headquarters

7900 Triad Center Dr
Greensboro, NC 27409
800-637-1609

Timber Offices

Old Fort, NC
Greg Decker
828-724-9495

Craigsville, WV
Chris Neal
304-742-5317

Klamath Falls, OR
Mark Slezak
541-273-2504

Newport, VT Veneer Division
Dwight Jensen
802-334-6711

Forest Certification Manager
Richard Taylor Jr
423-914-3446

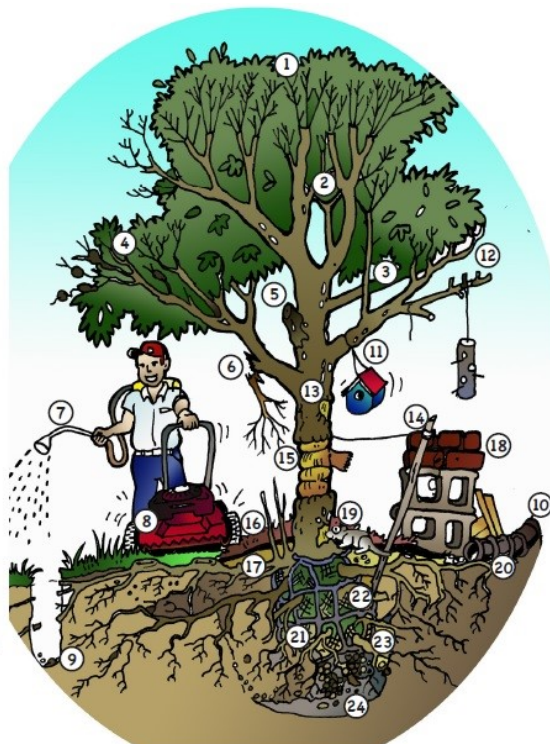
Appalachian Timber
Manager
Jim Sitts
888-737-0514

24 WAYS TO KILL A TREE

1. Topping trees
2. Don't prune co-dominant leaders
3. Leave crossing branches to rub and create wounds.
4. Ignore insect or disease
5. Coat pruning cuts with paint
6. Leave broken branches unpruned to encourage pests.
7. Spray unapproved herbicides.
8. Damage roots with lawn equipment.
9. Dig trenches through roots.
10. Plant close to house or obstacles.
11. Girdle branches with wire and rope.
12. Prune randomly to leave branch "stubs."
13. Prune flush cuts to reduce wound closure.
14. Leave tree staked until guy wire girdles trunk.
15. Leave wrap on to constrict trunk growth and rot bark.
16. Pile up excessive mulch to encourage rodent damage and bark rot.
17. Put non-porous black plastic under mulch.
18. Stack items atop roots to cause soil compaction.
19. Leave ball roping on to girdle trunk.
20. Plant near downspout to assure excessive water.
21. Leave top of wire basket in place to girdle roots.

22. Leave burlap on to prevent root growth.
23. Dig hole too narrow when planting
24. Dig hole too deep or fill with gravel and drown roots.

From Virginia Cooperative Extension, Publication 430-210, Bonnie Appleton, Extension Specialist



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

You can visit our site at: www.columbiaforestproducts.com. Please come by on occasion and look for our forestry section for landowners. (Click on "Resources" then select "Landowners.")