

# BRANCHING OUT

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The Rainforest Alliance is an international nonprofit conservation organization that certifies forestry operations, ensuring that they meet rigorous standards for the conservation of natural resources and the rights and welfare of workers and local communities.



The mark of responsible forestry

## TREES ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF YOUR BREAKFAST

Most people know that paper is made from trees. But did you ever stop to think that the cardboard protecting your cereal, the carton that holds your milk and juice, the protective egg carton, all come from trees?

Wood and wood products are all around us - from the lumber we use to build our homes, to the furniture we use to make us comfortable. And those are just the most obvious. Look into your (wooden) kitchen cabinets

and discover that wood and wood products can also be found in baby foods, cereals, vegetarian foods and chew-



ing gum.

In your medicine chest - your vitamins, toothpaste, and

medicines contain products that come from trees. And from toothpicks to shoe polish, carpeting to hair spray, soaps to solvents - the average American uses wood and paper products equivalent to what can be produced from one 18 inch diameter, 100 foot tall tree every year.

Each year, over 5 new trees are planted for each man, woman, and child in America.

Forestry Facts, from West Virginia Forestry Association

## EMERALD ASH BORER

Emerald ash borer (EAB) has been found from the Great Lakes States down into Tennessee and Virginia. This insect quickly kills ash trees and spreads to surrounding ash trees in the forest. Many states now have quarantines in effect to prevent the transportation of infested ash to other counties or states. EAB is one of the reasons for states campaigning to campers to stop transporting firewood and buy locally.

The insects are just under 1/2 inch in length. They are

golden green over all with darker, metallic emerald green wings.



Trees that are infested have "D" shaped exit holes on the bark and branches. Removing the bark will reveal frass-filled larvae tunnels etched into the inner bark of the

tree.

At this time, extension recommends fertilizing and watering trees that are susceptible to EAB attack. Trees that are targeted for insect control can be root soaked with an imidacloprid insecticide.

For more information on this forest pest, see state extension for recommended treatments, quarantine information, and help with identification.

Columbia offers the industry's most complete line of certified decorative hardwood panel products which carry the FSC ecolabel. You can be assured that products from Columbia that carry this label come from well managed forests.

## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT CALENDAR OCTOBER

*Now is the time to remove unwanted trees*

Condensed from the Wildlife Management Calendar from Craig Harper, Professor of Wildlife at University of Tennessee.

- Now is the best time to kill-cool season grasses such as fescue and orchard grass, in preparation to plant native warm season grasses in the spring.
- Burn and disc old fields and early successional habitat to create brooding cover for wild turkey, ruffed grouse, and deer browse in the spring
- Prepare fire breaks by disk-

ing now and planting grasses or forbs

- Remove unwanted trees as part of your Timber Stand Improvement. Using hack and squirt methods will produce good results. See local extension for pesticide recommendations and rates
- Start tracking acorn production from oak trees. In 3 years, you can determine which trees should be released
- Build brush piles from pruned limbs and thinned trees
- Sow winter wheat along the edges of flooded fields to provide forage for migrating Canada geese
- Make sure you have posted your property and adhere to your Quality Deer Management (QDM) plan
- Think about allowing bucks to reach 3 1/2 years of age before harvesting. You may have to harvest more does to control population and improve health
- Clean out bluebird and duck boxes and put up bird feeders

*For every fog in August, there will be a snowfall in winter*

*Farmer's Almanac*

*Monitoring acorn production will aid in determining the timing of oak regeneration harvests*

## MANAGING FOR OAKS IN APPALACHIA

From Dr. Jeff Stringer, University of KY Extension, "Oak Shelterwood: A technique to improve oak regeneration"

Successful regeneration of oak species is limited on good sites due to the lack of vigorous advance regeneration. Oaks compete well on poor sites such as on top of a dry ridge, but on sites closer to the creeks and coves, oaks are often outcompeted by maples, yellow-poplar, and beech.

The first step in managing oaks this way is to determine if the site characteristics will support oak management. Site Index should be greater than 65 to 70 feet for upland oaks. The site should be dominated by oak trees and have advanced oak regeneration in the understory.

Oak regeneration should be at least 3 to 4 feet tall and less than 10 inches diameter at the stump. Trees should be less than 65 years old for white oaks

and less than 35 years old for red oaks. If there is no advanced oak regeneration, only seedlings less than 2 feet tall; or if there is less than 100 oak trees per acre of 3 to 4 foot trees and stump sprouts, then the oak shelterwood method will improve the oak percentage regenerating under the canopy.



Once you have determined that you have an oak site and the right oak regeneration, harvest the mid-story trees. Usually, around 20 square feet of basal area is removed at this stage. Do not remove trees that will open the canopy and allow sunlight to reach the forest floor. If the under-story and mid-story trees are not commercially vi-

able, you may have to apply a herbicide treatment to remove them.

After performing a mid-story removal treatment, begin monitoring the site where you are establishing oak regeneration. Shade tolerant species can seed into the area and you may need to apply herbicide to control them. Oak seedlings may take a year or two to respond to the treatment.

Once the regeneration has reached an appropriate size, 4 feet or higher, then the over-story can be harvested. Clearcuts, patch clearcuts, and group select cuts are generally recommended.

In summary, the oak shelterwood method is a useful tool to help improve the ability of oak to regenerate. A Columbia forester or county forester can help you determine the viability of stands and sites to respond to this treatment on your for-

## QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT

Quality Deer Management (QDM) is the strategy of managing deer population for the health of the herd within existing habitat conditions. This is not simply hunting does or managing for trophy bucks, although, you will create conditions that produce mature bucks with Boone and Crocket antlers.

The first step in QDM is to work together with adjoining landowners and implement the program on a larger landscape. Managing deer across a few thousand acres will have better results than on your 150 acres alone.

Next, you need to record data on your deer population. Survey year round and determine sex, age, and weight of each deer

sighted. When harvesting deer, make sure that this information is recorded as well. Over time, you can determine the population trends.

Carrying capacity (CC) is the number of deer that can be maintained based on habitat conditions. Quality of habitat is a large factor in overall CC. Determining this number is a challenge, but if your data over time shows decreasing body weights and increasing spike percentages, then you are above CC. If all of your does have fawns, you are below CC. You should try and keep deer herds just below CC.

Ideally, you should try to maintain a 1:1 buck to doe ratio. At first, this may be too hard to

achieve and a 1:2 ratio may be better.

The goal of QDM is to improve the herd's age structure, overall health, and therefore quality of the does and bucks. Often, this may mean harvesting more deer and does than you have in the past. It also means leaving one year old spikes to mature into potential trophy bucks.

This is a greatly simplified introduction to QDM. Be sure and check out information available online and at the bookstore on this subject.

Condensed from "Quality Deer Management.", UT Extension, Craig A. Harper

## LANDSCAPING TO IMPROVE BIRD HABITAT

Planting trees and shrubs in your yard or woodlot is a great way to attract more birds. Trees and shrubs offer two types of food for birds: seeds, berries, and fruits produced by the plants, and insects attracted by the vegetation. The most attractive habitat for birds is a mix of early successional habitat (open areas with tall grasses), shrub areas, and forestland.

Birds are attracted to small seeds, such as sunflower seeds and dogwood seeds. Most birds (75 percent) build nests at 15 feet or less in tree branches, so mature forests are not necessary to attract song birds. A safe source of water nearby also helps bring birds to your woods.

The following trees and shrubs will attract a wide variety of birds. Try to use native varieties for your area.



Eastern Bluebird

### Shrubs

Beautyberry, blueberry, blackberry, smooth sumac, elderberries, pokeberries, honeysuckle, pyracantha, nandina, poison ivy, grapevines, ragweed

### Small Trees

Crab apples, cherries, hawthorne, dogwood, hollies, mulberry, plums, serviceberry

### Large Trees

Hackberry, oaks, pecans, yellow-poplar, shortleaf pine, longleaf pine, eastern red cedar

**Grasses and Ground Covers**  
Millets, sunflowers

Condensed from "Bird Houses and Feeders" by Mark Taylor

Photo Credit: Ken Thomas

*Managing deer across several thousand acres yields better results than one 150 acre property*

*Birds are attracted to seeds from trees such as dogwood*

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# COLUMBIA GROUP CERTIFICATION

Columbia continues to improve management efforts of forests and provide this information to landowners.

As part of this process, Columbia occasionally updates templates, records, and handbooks.

In 2012, Columbia updated the Group Certification Handbook for landowners who participate in our FSC Group Certification program. This Handbook explains the processes involved in administering 3rd party audited forest management

and also details the steps required to achieve FSC Certified forest management.

This Handbook is available to you for free. If you would like a copy, please contact the Columbia Timber Department nearest you and leave your name and address.

Columbia also provides copies of FSC US Forest Management Standard, and state BMP Manuals for landowners who participate in our Group Certification Program. If you are interested in these documents or other information, please call

us and we will be happy to provide these documents and answer any questions you may have about your forestland.

Columbia has added several thousand acres annually since 2010 to the forestland that we help landowners manage in the Appalachian Region. We are glad to be a part of your conservation efforts.

Sincerely,  
The staff at Columbia

# COLUMBIA'S CABINOTCH CABINETS

CFP Components, a division of Columbia Forest Products, has acquired Cabinotch, the Challenger Award-winning company that has developed an innovative system for assembling face-framed cabinet boxes that feature Columbia's domestically-produced, formaldehyde-free PureBond® hardwood plywood.

The Cabinotch system, which involves a patent-pending

interlocking side panel-to face frame joint, has been shown to help cabinet shops reduce costs and improve productivity. Customers report that it helps them minimize low-profit hours spent at the table saw in favor of time spent designing, selling, finishing and adding value to their cabinet projects.

Cabinotch technology allows

Columbia to deliver a set of custom-sized American Hardwood parts – from the face frame through the sides, backs, bottoms, tops and shelves – that cabinet maker's can finish and assemble along with their doors and drawers.

Cabinotch is another way Columbia brings technology and support to manufacturers who use our plywood products.

# WE'RE ON THE WEB!

You can visit our site at: [www.cfpwood.com](http://www.cfpwood.com). Please come by on occasion and look for our forestry section for landowners.