

UPSTATE FORESTRY NEWS



Serving the Upstate of SC

Fall 2005

Controlling Chinese Privet

*By Howard Hiller, County Extension Agent,
Oconee County*

At one of our forestry meetings this past year Dr. Larry Nelson, Clemson Extension Forestry Specialist, presented a program on chemical control of problem plants for forest landowners. In his remarks, he noted that privet may well be the number one non-native invasive plant pest we have now, ranking even higher than kudzu. If you look around your property I will almost guarantee that you will find some.

There are several types of Privet here, but the one type that I seem to see the most of is Chinese Privet (*Ligustrum sinense*). This is a thicket forming shrub that can grow up to 30 feet tall. They are soft woody multiple stemmed shrubs with long leafy branches and opposite leaves less than 2 inches long. Showy clusters of small white flowers produced in spring yield clusters of small ovoid, dark purple berries during fall and winter. These are a favorite of birds. If you let many of these go to seed, soon you will have young privet plants coming up everywhere. Privet was introduced from China and Europe in the early to mid 1800's and has been used as a traditional southern ornamental plant. Deer will browse on young sprouts.

Privet commonly gets established at the edges of woods and in bottoms. It is an aggressive and troublesome invasive plant, often forming dense thickets, particularly in bottom-land forests and along fence rows. It is shade tolerant and will colonize by root sprouts and spread widely by abundant bird and other animal dispersed seeds.

If this plant is becoming a problem for you, we are entering the time of year recommended for controlling this pest. Recommended control procedures are as follows: Thoroughly wet all leaves with one of the following herbicides in water with a surfactant (October through

November): a glyphosate herbicide as a 3 percent solution or Arsenal AC as a 1 percent solution (4 ounces per 3 gallon mix). For stems too tall for foliar sprays, apply Garlon 4 as a 20% solution (2.5 quarts per 3 gallon mix) in a commercially available basal oil, diesel fuel, kerosene or vegetable oil as a basal spray to the lower 18 inches of the stem. As an alternative, you can cut large stems and immediately treat the stumps with Arsenal AC or Velpar L as a 10 percent solution in water (1 quart per 3-gallon mix) with a surfactant. When using Arsenal AC or Velpar L use caution as nontarget plants may be killed or injured by root uptake. When safety to surrounding vegetation is desired, treat stumps and cut stems with Garlon 3A or a glyphosate herbicide as a 20 percent solution in water (2.5 quarts per 3 gallon mix) with a surfactant. Stumps should be treated immediately following cutting.

If you would like more information on this and other nonnative plants call your local Clemson Extension Service office or the Oconee Extension office at 864- 638-5889 and request a copy of "Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests", a field guide for identification and control, published by the U. S. Forest Service Southern Research Station.

Proper pH: The Answer to Food Plot Woes

*By Darren Atkins, County Extension Agent -
Newberry County*

The fall planting season has arrived! It's time to begin sowing oats, clover, wheat, rye, alfalfa, or anything else that may provide our wildlife with a winter food source. It is important to be aware that in the Southeast, very few plot sites naturally contain the proper nutrients for successful establishment of food plots. I don't believe that this fact goes unnoticed in our agricultural practices. Every wildlife manager whom I've had contact, conducts some sort of fertilization program on

their plots in the attempt to improve biomass production, palatability, and nutrition of their crop. However, there is one practice that is often overlooked.

Testing the pH of the soil and applying the necessary lime is the most important factor to consider when establishing or enhancing wildlife food plots. Lime is an agent that can boost the pH in our highly acidic soils and at the same time provide micronutrients that are often not achieved by fertilization. So why does the pH of the soil matter? It matters because nutrients such as Nitrogen, Potassium, Sulfur, Calcium, and Magnesium become unavailable to the plant at low or acidic Ph levels. Others such as Zinc, Iron, Copper, and Boron are unavailable to the plant under high Ph levels. There is a desirable medium in the two extremes, which is a pH level of 6.0-6.5. This should be our target when considering wildlife food plot establishment and maintenance.

How do we find out the pH levels?

Fortunately, Clemson Cooperative Extension Service offers this service to the public here in S.C for a small fee of \$6.00. A soil report is obtained that clearly describes the amount of lime that the soil would require to reach a target Ph of 6.0, and 6.5. Not only that, it also gives nutrient levels so that fertilizer rates can be obtained, and also general recommendations about the crop to be grown. Get the test, you'll be glad you did.

Most of the soils in our area require about 1-2 tons per acre to achieve desired pH levels and is usually performed by a commercial spreader or lime truck provided by most farm supply stores. I know the burning question for those of you that have never purchased lime in the past...how much? Unfortunately, due to rising fuel costs, lime has risen to approximately \$50/ton picked up with the spreader, or \$75/ton delivered and spread.

It is important to remember that lime does not become active immediately after application. It is recommended that lime be applied at least 5 months prior to planting. There are several types of lime available but only about three that we should be concerned with: Dolomitic, Calcitic, and Burned lime (quicklime). Dolomitic and Calcitic limes are similar except for the higher concentration of calcium in Calcitic lime. It should be used when you have calcium deficient soil. Burned lime, often called quicklime is a fine powder that neutralizes quicker and with fewer amounts. The drawback is that it is a very fine powder that

tends to absorb moisture and is difficult to handle.

Remember that applying lime is just one component to consider as you establish your food plots. There are other components such as having a proper seed bed, planting depth, seed viability, and location of planting. Consideration to lime or not to lime could affect the quality of your food plots. Good luck.

International Paper May Sell Its 6.8 Million Acres

Looking to increase your timberland holdings? This fall, you may have a chance to pick up a few acres from International Paper Co. (IP) –about 6.8 million.

It isn't a done deal yet. The company announced in July that it is considering selling portions or perhaps all of its US forestlands. It also may make other "portfolio changes" by the first quarter of 2006. The changes are sweeping: While IP would retain its profitable uncoated papers and industrial and consumer packaging businesses, it would sell or spin off much of the rest of the company in addition to its timberland. Included in that list of items is IP's

- 50.5 percent stake in Carter Holt Harvey, Australia's largest forest products company
- Coated and supercalendered papers business, including the coated groundwood mill and associated assets in Parana, Brazil
- Beverage-packaging business, including the Pine Bluff, Arkansas, mill
- Kraft papers business, including the Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, mill
- Arizona Chemical, a Jacksonville, Florida-based company
- Other wood products businesses

"Considering our desire to develop strong businesses that can compete and grow globally, we have made choices about which businesses to focus our management and financial resources," said IP Chair and Chief Executive Officer John Faraci in the announcement. "The businesses being evaluated for potential sale or spin-off are good businesses that may be better positioned with different ownership."

The company estimates that after-tax proceeds from the potential divestments could range from \$8 billion to \$10 billion. IP would use as much as 50 percent of the net proceeds for debt reduction and would pass as much as 30 percent to shareholders.

IP, which was established in 1898, once was one of the world's largest private landowners. As recently as 2003, IP owned 8.3 million acres in the United States. Since then, it has sold 1.5 million acres, including 1.1 million acres in Maine and New Hampshire last year to GMO Renewable Resources LLC.

IP's divestment is part of a continuing trend. According to *Timber Mart-South*, more than 4 million acres had changed hands by the end of the first half of this year. The report said that, "even if sales were to end midyear, 2005 has been an active one for timberland markets.

What are Streamside Management Zones and how can they benefit you as a land owner?

By Jeff Fellers, County Extension Agent, Union County

Streamside management zones (also referred to as SMZ) as defined by the *Best Management Practices Handbook* are areas adjacent to the bank of a stream or body of open water where extra precaution is necessary to carry out forest practices in order to protect bank edges and water quality. Streams that fall into this definition are often broken down into three categories. First, there are perennial streams that have well defined banks and a continuous flow of water most years. The second type is intermittent streams which also have well defined banks but only have water flowing for a portion of the year. The last type of stream is the ephemeral streams which generally do not have well defined channels and flow only when there is localized precipitation. Each type of stream has different guidelines for protection so it is important to classify streams located on your property before harvesting timber.

The South Carolina Forestry Commission has developed a set of guidelines (known as Best Management Practices) that will help landowners determine how they should set up and manage their stream management zones. For recommended buffer widths of the primary and secondary SMZ's visit the South Carolina Forestry Commission's website at <http://www.state.sc.us/forest/refbmp.htm>. The website also describes what is allowed and not allowed in the SMZ.

Stream management zones benefit land owners in a number of ways. One of the most important benefits is better water quality. When timber is harvested there is the potential for large

amounts of water movement over the surface of the land. This can cause soil erosion and sedimentation into the stream. Stream management zones help to filter and slow the movement of water and sediment which decreases the amount of sediment that may make it to the stream. Many people do not know that erosion of soil into a stream is actually a form of pollution. SMZ's also help to reduce the movement of fertilizers and pesticides into streams.

Stream management zones are also beneficial to wildlife. After a timber harvest, SMZ's act as a travel corridor for wildlife. Not only do SMZ's provide valuable cover and shelter to wildlife after a timber harvest, but they also provide food and forage. Oak and hickory trees are found growing in these areas and they produce acorns and nuts that provide various species of wildlife with food. SMZ's also promote the growth of native plant species. Wildlife normally favors native plant species over nonnative species which usually tend to be invasive and reduce biodiversity. For those who own land that border trout waters SMZ's are vital to their survival. SMZ's create cooler water temperatures which trout prefer and need. Also with increased water quality from the SMZ, trout will find a better food chain in the macroinvertebrates.

Stream management zones hold many benefits for land owners and wildlife. If SMZ's are managed properly, biodiversity can be increased throughout the area while protecting water quality in the process. Next time a timber harvest is planned for your land please be mindful to take into consideration the stream management zones and all the benefits they have to offer.

4-H Members Enhance Wildlife Habitat

By Diane Palmer

A 4-H program is teaching youth ages 5-19 how to create food plots that benefit wildlife. Called Food and Cover Establishment for Wildlife, the program is an annual statewide contest co-sponsored by Clemson 4-H, the SC Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and SC Quail Unlimited.

"In this program youth learn about wildlife ecology, identification, behavior and management," said Rick Willey, Clemson Extension 4-H natural resources specialist. "They also learn about soil fertility, plant identification, hydrology, weather, farming

techniques, record keeping, and life skills such as reading, writing, art, computers, math, photography, and recording data on maps, charts and graphs.”

Each contestant keeps records on site preparation, fertilization, wildlife sightings and other observations from mid-June until mid-August. In the fall, plots and record books are judged on the county, regional and state levels by DNR wildlife biologists and technicians.

“This is an excellent opportunity for youths to participate in hands-on wildlife management, learn more about wildlife, and benefit wildlife populations all at the same time,” said Jay Butfiloski, DNR wildlife biologist and statewide coordinator for the program. Last year, 4-H members in 32 counties participated in the contest.

For more information: Rick Willey 864-656-3090, rwilly@clemson.edu or www.clemson.edu/4H/Enviro/face.htm.

SCFC Genetic Best Loblolly Pine

In a limited offering, loblolly seedlings from the Forestry Commission’s two best genetic families are now available for purchase. Called “Neiderhof’s Best”, these trees derive from the single best Coastal and Piedmont loblolly families in the Commission’s tree improvement program. Only fifty thousand seedlings from each of these two exclusive families are available.

Commission nurserymen say these two families are the best overall performers in their orchard system. In outplanting trials, these trees are expected to perform significantly better than seedlings from bulk seed lots.

Forestry professionals desiring more information on Neiderhof’s Best seedlings may call 1-803-275-3578.

State 4-H Forestry Contest

By Jason Caudill, County Extension Agent, Oconee County

We will once again have a State 4-H Forestry Contest in 2006! We are looking for youth and adults to be involved in this great program. Please get involved by contacting your county 4-H agent and asking for more details.

You can obtain a copy of the handbook for the contest either from your local 4-H Agent or from the 4-H Forestry web site at http://www.clemson.edu/4H/Enviro/forest_invit.htm. Here you will find many resources that will help

you prepare your team for the contest, including a link to the National Forestry Invitational web site. The State Contest will have some of the components found at the National level, but not all. Therefore, the National web site will be the best resource for preparing your team(s).

The contest will be open for both Juniors (9-13 years old) and Seniors (14-19 years old) 4-H’ers. The winning senior team will represent SC at the National Forestry Invitational at Jackson’s Mill 4-H Center in West Virginia.

In addition, trainings for agents and volunteers will be available in March upon request. Contact Rick Willey at 656-3090 or email at rwilly@clemson.edu to find out more details about trainings.

Clemson Extension Offers Program on Nonnative Invasive Plant Species in South Carolina

By Brian Callahan, County Extension Agent, Pickens County

Invasive or exotic pest plant species are a growing problem in South Carolina. Nonnative plant invasions can be seen in natural areas, croplands, rangelands, pastures, forests, wetlands and waterways, wilderness areas, parks and refuges, and highway rights-of-way. They are disrupting the dynamics of ecosystems, reducing biodiversity, pushing native species toward extinction, and are causing billions of dollars of direct damage to human enterprise. Preventing further spread of invasive plants and recapturing impacted sites is a monumental task that depends on public awareness, support, and participation. The objective of this satellite workshop is to:

- Inform stakeholders on details of this growing problem.
- Identify the major terrestrial species that are a problem in South Carolina.
- Provide information on practical direct and indirect control methods.
- Discuss overall management strategies including site restoration.

To address this issue, Clemson Extension will be offering a program on Nonnative Invasive Species. This workshop will be held on October 4th and 11th, 2005 from 7:00 - 10:00 pm. Interested participants may attend the live site at Clemson University, or choose from several satellite sites including Anderson and Greenville. For those choosing to attend a satellite site, a toll-free number will allow the opportunity to call in with specific questions and

comments during the program. A registration fee of \$125 will include the booklet *Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests*, the bulletin *Invasive Species of South Carolina*, and refreshments. The registration deadline is September 23, 2005. No walk-ins or late registrants will be accepted. For more information or to receive a registration brochure, contact Brian Callahan at 878-1394 (email: bcallah@clemson.edu) or Howard Hiller at 638-5889 (email: hhiller@clemson.edu).

This course provides 5.5 hours of Category 1 continuing forestry education (CFE) credits, 6 hours of SFI credits for the TOP program, 5 hours of ISA certified arborist credits and 4 hours of pesticide applicator credits.

For more information regarding youth and adult educational programming, contact your local Clemson Extension Office.

Prescribed Burning Certification Course Offered

Land managers who conduct outdoor burning can reduce their liability by becoming Certified Prescribed Fire Managers. Training sessions are scheduled:

- Oct. 19 Columbia, SC
- Nov. 30 Moncks Corner, SC
- Jan. 21, 2006 Columbia, SC

Conducted by the SC Forestry Commission, the one-day course teaches how to plan prescribed burns that comply with state air quality regulations. The regulations, called Smoke Management Guidelines, are mandatory for all forestry, wildlife, and agriculture burning in South Carolina.

Achieving certification provides burners with limited liability protection under state law. Requirements include passing a written test, documenting one's burning experience, and agreeing to conduct all burning according to standards set forth in the SC Prescribed Fire Act.

To register for any session, contact Paul Watts, 803-896-8837.

Cost is \$15; applications are processed on a first come-first served basis.

Deadline for registration is three weeks prior to the course.

Upcoming TOP Programs & Workshops

Several TOP (Timber Operations Professional) Programs and Workshops are planned for this year. Here is the schedule:

TOP Program

Nov. 9, 10, and 17 SC Forestry Commission Headquarters, Columbia, SC.

TOP Refresher and Streamside Management Workshops

Oct. 12 York Electrical Coop, York, SC
Dec. 14 SC Forestry Commission, Columbia, SC.

TOP Streamside Management Workshop

Oct. 13 York Electrical Coop, York, SC
Dec. 15 SC Forestry Commission, Columbia, SC.

Contact: Erik Flemming, Clemson University, 272 Lehotsky Hall, Clemson, SC 29634-0331. Phone: 864-656-4786. View all continuing education classes at www.clemson.edu/extfor/calendar.

For the latest information on upcoming classes, continuing education standards, and a listing of SFI Trained individuals in SC, visit the Logger Training page of SCFA's website at www.scforestry.org.

Master Tree Farmer Level II to be offered this Spring

The Master Tree Farmer Level II shortcourse will be conducted every Tuesday evening from Feb. 7 – March 21, 2006. The course will run from 7:00pm to 10:00pm. Master Tree Farmer is a regional satellite miniseries on forest management for landowners and natural resource professionals at the local level. For additional information, contact Bill Hubbard, Southern Regional Extension Forester at 706-542-7813 or hubbard@smokey.forestry.uga.edu.

Upcoming Forestry Association Meetings

Anderson: The Anderson County Forest Landowners Association will be meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 11th at Circle M Barbecue on Hwy 178 in Anderson at 6:30pm. The topic will be "Timber Theft: How to Protect Yourself." The meeting is open to all forest landowners of the Upstate. Register by calling Bill Hayne at 864-633-6007.

Oconee: The Oconee County Forest Landowners Association will be meeting on Thursday, Oct. 6th at the Oconee Agriculture

Building Auditorium in Walhalla at 7:00pm. The topic will be 'BMP's including Stream Crossings.' Dale Mason from the SC Forestry Commission will be the guest speaker. Cost will be \$4/person. Register by calling 864-638-5889 by Oct. 4th.

Pickens: The Pickens County Forest Landowners Association will be meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 18th at the Pickens County Extension Office at 7:00pm. The topic will be 'BMP's including Stream Crossings'. Dale Mason from the SC Forestry Commission will be the guest speaker. Cost will be \$6/person. Register by calling 864-878-1394 by Oct. 14th by 4:00pm.

Newberry: Newberry Forest Landowner Association will meet November 8th at 6:30 at the Back Porch Restaurant in Prosperity. The meal will be dutch treat and the program following will be delivered by Ken Driggers with the Palmetto Conservation Foundation on 'Conservation Easements'.

Edited by: D. Jason Caudill, County Extension Agent, Oconee County

Dear Readers,

This newsletter is being distributed on a regional level every quarter. The columns will be composed and compiled by various experts with the Cooperative Extension Service as well as other agencies. Our intention is to provide landowners with useful and pertinent information. In order for this to be a success, we would like to ask our clientele to offer suggestions for the content of this newsletter. You can provide this by e-mail at caudill@clermson.edu or by phone, 864-638-5889 ext. 116. We hope you find this information informative.

Sincerely,

D. Jason Caudill
County Extension Agent
Natural Resources and 4-H Youth Development

Howard H. Hiller
County Extension Agent
Forestry and Agriculture

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