



SUMMER
2020

PRESCRIBED FIRE NEWSLETTER

upcoming events >>>

Certified Prescribed Burn Manager Class

July 7-10, 2020

Location: Auburn University Forestry and Wildlife Science Building

Cost: \$150

Registration: <http://forestry.alabama.gov/Pages/Fire/BurnManager.aspx>

Certified Prescribed Burn Manager Class

August 11-14, 2020

Location: Alabama Fire College, Tuscaloosa

Cost: \$150

Registration: <http://forestry.alabama.gov/Pages/Fire/BurnManager.aspx>



Annosus root rot.

Annosus Root Rot is a fungus that typically lives in well-drained, sandy soil. It can affect all Southern pine species, but slash and loblolly pine are the most affected by the fungus. It effects the root system of the tree and can cause mortality through girdling or reducing the root system, making the tree susceptible to wind. Annosus is generally seen in monoculture pine plantations where a thinning has occurred.

Annosus root rot is often spread by a thinning operation. Spores land on the freshly cut stumps and travel through the roots of the cut tree into the roots of a tree that was not cut. Once the root rot is in the live tree, it will start destroying the root system of the healthy tree. The root rot will continue to spread underground from root to root.

How can landowners determine if their trees are infected with Annosus? Typically, property owners will start seeing symptoms of the root rot 2-3 years after a thinning. Trees may be turning brown and dying or trees may be easily thrown down by the wind. There may be sections of a pine stand that are dying. Yellowish conks may appear in the litter layer of the affected trees; these would typically be noticed in the winter months.

How can Annosus root rot be controlled? If landowners suspect Annosus, they should burn their plantation *before* beginning a

thinning operation. Burning a stand before thinning will kill the spores and prevents the spread of the fungus. If a thinning is necessary, try to cut the timber in the hottest summer months. Just as with a prescribed burn in which the heat helps kill the spores, thinning in the height of summer will also aid in the eradication of some Annosus spores. Additionally, property owners can place borax on the cut stumps within 48 hrs of the thinning in order to further destroy any spores that land on the stumps. This also helps to reduce the number of thinnings needed and enables seedlings to be planted farther apart.

What can be done to make timber resistant to Annosus root rot? The long leaf pine species is the most resistant of the Southern pine to Annosus. Landowners who are planting for the first time may choose to plant long leaf in an effort to avoid Annosus. If a property contains another species of Southern pine and is experiencing significant problems with Annosus, a landowner can convert the stand to a longleaf stand. 🌲

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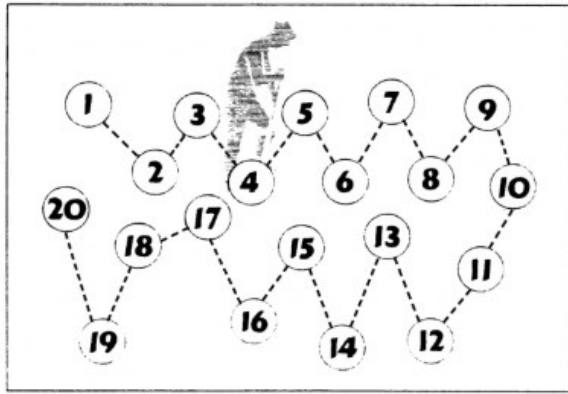


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Important Numbers

To Obtain a Burning Permit:
(800) 392-5679

For fire weather resources visit:
www.forestry.alabama.gov/Pages/Fire/Burn_Weather.aspx



Have you tested recently?

Have you completed a soil test recently checking for proper soil fertility for plant growth? Weather wanting to improve food plots, fruit trees or timber stands, testing the soil is a good idea both economically and environmentally. Soil testing is one technique used to check soil fertility status of the soil. Basic soils analysis will provide information on two important soil characteristics, soil pH and available nutrients.

Soil is the basis for having healthy production which is why it is important to grow plants in the correct soils. Most soils are acidic, while most crops produce best in moderately acidic soils. Available nutrient levels in the soil determine how well plants will produce. Synthetic fertilizer blend bags display 3 numbers, representing the percentage by weight, of the three main plant nutrients nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K) labeled as 13-13-13. Triple 13 is one of the most common sold bags for food plots, but does the soil really need these elements or is a better formula more appropriate for the application? Nitrogen

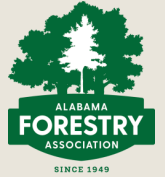
is the most limiting nutrient whereas phosphorus is not required as often. Which is why proper soil analysis is important. Once soil has been analyzed stores can custom blend formulas required by analysis.

To begin soil samples, pick up a soil sample bag or box at county Alabama Cooperative Extension offices or local feed stores. Samples should be taken in the field or stand needing to be fertilized. Each samples should represent no more than 10 acres and be collected in a zig-zag pattern throughout the area (see above diagram). Some stores provide a soil sample tool for samples to be collected, if not a bucket and shovel will suffice. Place soil in a dry area to dry out completely, then place in provided container to be mailed to the lab for analyzing. Most labs do have a small fee but you will quickly get a final return with proper fertilized plots. 🌱

For more information see: *The Basis of Soil Testing in Alabama.* by Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station.

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