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Brush Control Options (part II)

Last week's column hit on the basal bark method of brush control. Additional information, products and mix recommendations can be found in the 2022 KSU Chemical Weed Control guide at: <https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/CHEMWEEDGUIDE.pdf>. Print copies will be available from District Office in late January.

If you have equipment, time, and ability, the cut stump method of brush control is a pretty good one as well. As the name implies, trees/brush are cut at ground level and the stump treated with an herbicide mixture. Cut stump treatments should be made soon after cutting so sap doesn't harden and reduce herbicide uptake. Only the cambium layer needs to be treated. This is the outer area of the stump where water and nutrients are translocated in the tree. It's also a good idea to treat any exposed roots as well.

As with basal bark treatments, numerous products are available. Always read and follow label directions to get the right mix for the right species. Some work better on one species than another (for example, locust treatments are most effective if the active ingredient aminopyralid or picloram are used). Treatment efficacy starts to decline in many years in late January.

Check out the full list of product options in the 2022 KSU Chemical Weed Control guide online or drop us a line in late January to request your copy.

Preferred Trees for NEK

Winter isn't the right time to plant trees, but winter *is* the right time to start thinking about what you *want* to plant. Getting the right tree for the right site is the key to a successful planting, and that means some advance preparation.

One resource northeast Kansas landowners should consider is an information packed four-page publication put out by our Kansas Forest Service Community Foresters. It combines the recommendations of industry professionals (city foresters and local tree boards) with input from Extension foresters, commercial arborists, and retail/production nurseries to present a list of trees that work well in a number of different situations for northeast Kansas landowners.

The list is split in to three sizes of deciduous trees plus evergreens. Within each section, trees are rated based on environmental tolerances (light shade, drought, wet soils, etc...) and landscape attributes (height, spread, color, flowers, etc...). Species recommendations include cultivar recommendations when necessary as well. For example, Red Maple includes five different recommended cultivars.

The list can be used to help you get started looking as well as fine tune your search once you locate trees. There *will* be trees perform well here not on the list, but it does provide a great starting point for evaluating species for landscape plantings. Access the list online at: https://www.kansasforests.org/community_forestry/community_docs/NE%20Kansas%20Preferred%20Trees.pdf or request a copy from any District Office.