

Down on the Tree Farm Summer 2008

Tip of the Day: If you don't pile slash, you don't have to burn it.

What To Do In . . . AUGUST

Control the woody brush competition--

Late August through early October on westside is the best time for fall foliar herbicide application. Always check labels and consult experts for specific chemicals, application rates, and measurement.

Examine and plan your site properly--do you need to raise your application rate because you have conifers present? Do you need to use a surfactant?

Make sure you have good advice on herbicide choices, application rates, and surfactants.

Find out about invasive species and learn to identify them if the unwanted guests arrive.

Are you an arm-chair quarter back? Consider playing the young-man's games---

Begin tree planting when rain allows.

Do thinning & pruning when the ground is dry.

Don't get "burned"--

Burn only when rains arrive, but remember that fire season isn't over just because it's raining.

Make sure your land is really wet before letting your guard down.

Plan ahead for burns--where is your water source? Looking for water in the middle of a forest fire is like looking for a bandaid during a heart attack.

If you need help with a fire, whom will you call? Call your forestry department about operation restrictions. Know the regulations regarding a safe burn. Visit your state's fire regulation webpage to learn more:

Oregon: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/FIRE/guide.shtml>

Idaho: <http://www.idl.idaho.gov/bureau/firemgmt.htm#laws>

Washington:

http://www.dnr.wa.gov/RecreationEducation/Topics/FireBurningRegulations/Pages/rp_burn_fireburnfuelmgt.aspx

Know and avoid high risk behaviors about fire--

- Backyard burning can burn more than your backyard.
- Mowing roadsides when the grass is dry can make your land blacktop.
- Smoking in the woods can make a lot of smoke for everyone.

Make sure your fire safety equipment works. Waiting until a fire is raging is the wrong time to check your fire extinguisher--

- Park your fire rig near where you work but in a firesafe area. Make sure the fire truck's battery is charged and the old beast can start.
- Although you're sure you put fuel in the tank, did you remember to put *water* in the OTHER tank? Does the pump start? Did you remember to hook up the hoses?

SEPTEMBER:

ROCK ROADS--

Now is the time to rock your roads. Waiting until the mud is there just makes your rock disappear.

Compacted areas (think of log truck routes) take less rock.

Soft Spot? Consider using a geotechnical fabric to keep the water away.

SLASH TREATMENT --

Scatter your limbs to keep your new seedlings hidden from the deer. Too much slash, however, can be a fire hazard

Make sure slash piles are far away from snags. These old trees can catch on fire with very little heat.

Burn only when rains arrive.

OPTIONS TO BURNING--

Grind or chip slash and scatter.

Some entrepreneurs add fungal spores to their chips to add value by harvesting mushrooms.

Build a fort for the grandkids.

Save good limbs for boughs or wreaths.

TAKE A TOUR, TAKE A CLASS, LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE, GO SOMEPLACE NEW.

Take some time to go off your land so you can better appreciate it when you return.

OCTOBER

ENJOY THE FALL COLORS

If all you see on the tree farm is green, plant some deciduous species this year to provide some color.

Want to use up some of that old wood lying around? Make some bird houses, bat boxes, and bumblebee nests for next year.

PLAN

As the days shorten, you have no excuse to stay outside, so use the evenings to plan for next year. Are your seedlings ordered? Equipment maintained? Have you updated your will or estate plan?

ARE YOU READY FOR THE WINTER?

How long has it been since you and your gutters have seen eye-to-eye? Maybe it's time to check the gutters and drainage for the barn and shop. Check your water bars and drainage ditches to ensure they're ready when the rains fall. Are your culverts full of mud?

WHO AM I?

I am a true omnivore.

I love insects. They make up 70% of my diet.

I am mostly out at night. If you have a flashlight, you might see me dining on a bees nest, swatting bees out of the air as they emerge.

I can found denned up anywhere in the Northwest.

I have four legs and a tail and am about the size of a house cat.

My primary predators are large birds and your auto at night.

You may remember my uncle Pepe Lapeau from the big screen

When mortally threatened I can put up quite a stink.

Who am I?

Who am I? = *Mephitis mephitis*, a striped skunk.