

Missouri Chapter News

Walnut Council: Growing Walnut and Other Fine Hardwoods

SPECIAL EDITION



This quarter we are introducing a new series to the chapter newsletter. The *"Tricks of the Trade"* series will highlight quick tips submitted by fellow Walnut Council members on how to best manage your woodland. From planting to TSI to harvest, if you have a tip you'd like to share, please submit the idea to: MOWalnutCouncil@gmail.com

Tricks of the Trade

Article submitted by Aaron Twombly—Member Since 2013

Like most woodland owners I spend a great deal of time conducting timber stand improvement (TSI) and removing invasive species on our property. Things like bush honeysuckle and autumn olive are especially troublesome. We have found the cut stump treatment to be effective in removing undesirable species, but it has its problems. Here's how the process usually goes. My wife or I dawn nitrile gloves and pick up a bottle of Tordon® RTU or other appropriate herbicide. The other person uses a pair of hand pruners or a saw to cut the stem off, and finally the person with the herbicide applies it to the stump.

The last step is where the problem comes in. After just a couple hours of work, the side of the bottle and gloves are covered with herbicide that has run off of the tip, some of the herbicide has inadvertently gone on the ground because some of the stumps are too small to accurately apply too, and the person with the herbicide is at the mercy of the person with the pruners and unable to find and treat other undesirables. The results are the same, regardless of whether we are using the quart bottle of Tordon® or a small two ounce squeeze bottles. At the end of the day too much herbicide has been wasted and landed on the ground and together we've probably wasted 30% of our time vs. if we could work separately. At least I feel grateful for the nitrile gloves, but it shows why one person is in charge of the herbicide, otherwise our tools would get covered with herbicide. We've also considered the small spray bottle approach, but for small stumps even more herbicide would end up on the ground.

This is where my new favorite tool comes in. Frustrated with this approach I recently purchase a 12 pack of 2-ounce marker bottles with dauber tip and cap (\$17.54, Amazon ID B007TIEG6U). These bottles are typically meant for art projects with tempera paint, but they work great for applying herbicide. Just fill the bottle, insert the

dauber tip, and screw on the cap. You can even refill them. When you're ready to treat a cut stump just press the cloth dauber on the stump. You can let gravity do the work if you only need a little herbicide or you can squeeze the bottle if more is needed. The tip has a valve so herbicide only comes out when you push it against something. So from treating only the sapwood of a 6" stump to a toothpick sized sprout of a bush honeysuckle you get the herbicide exactly where you want it with no waste and no mess. Best of all, you can carefully put the cap back on and put the bottle in your pocket - don't try that with your other herbicide covered bottles.



The ability to keep the bottle clean is possibly the best feature of all. We've only been using the bottles for a few months so it's possible the felt tip will wear out eventually, but so far they have held up well. Now

any time we walk through our woods we always have a hand pruner, pocket saw, and our trusty dauber top herbicide bottle in our pocket. If we stumble upon a new honeysuckle bush, we're ready for it.

As with all herbicides always read and follow all product labels.