

# Missouri Chapter News

Walnut Council: Growing Walnut and Other Fine Hardwoods



## Controlling the Competition - Using a Cordless Reciprocating Saw

Bob Ball, Past President with Brian King, Member, Ohio Chapter Walnut Council

Amur or Bush Honeysuckle grows not only here in Missouri, but also on my tree farm in SE Ohio. In fact, it seems to grow nearly everywhere we have Walnut Council members! A good friend in Ohio, Brian King, a member of the Ohio Chapter Walnut Council, shared his unique approach to controlling this invasive species.

The **photo (right)** shows Brian cutting a clump of honeysuckle (3 stems 1"- 2" in diameter) with a battery-powered reciprocating saw using a 9" long pruning blade. He also uses that saw to trim lower branches on trees if they are easy to reach and require a simple cut. The blade is thin and relatively stiff so it guides well. Brian has easily cut off 5"- 6" Osage-orange trees without issue using a Skil #94100 blade available on-line for \$3.00.

This blade is on its second year, and it is still cutting fine. Brian said he mostly uses this tool to trim trees with larger limbs so he can get his mower under them and/or if they are badly misshapen. Most of those trees are not lumber quality, but they need some trimming from many years of cattle grazing that occurred well before they purchased the property.

Brian then treats the cut stumps with **Crossroad** herbicide (generic of Crossbow) mixed with diesel (5 1/3 oz. per gal.). The active ingredients are 34.4% 2-4D ester and 16.5% Triclopyr ester. Rural King sells Crossroad for \$49.99 per gallon or \$99 for a 2.5-gallon jug. The 4% solution with diesel is the label recommendation for stump cut/basal treatments





**In this photo** Brian is preparing to use a small brush to apply herbicide onto the cut area and down the stump.

He also uses the brush method for basal bark treatments. The label says **“spray runoff should visibly wet the ground at the base of the stems or trunk”**. It works fine, but he intends to get a small squirt bottle in lieu of brushing the Crossroad.

He wears eye protection and rubber gloves under his leather gloves and transports the paint brush and dish soap container of herbicide in a 1-gallon plastic paint can so it stays self-contained and

wipes down any tool handles at the end of the day.

Since the reciprocating saw is a little heavy, Brian said this method works well if you have a localized area of honeysuckle, autumn olive, grape vines, etc. He puts everything in a 5-gallon bucket to move his tools (saw/batteries/loppers/hand saws) to different work areas.

He has a second saw battery. In a normal day of 4 - 6 hours of work-time the two batteries last. But, if they do expire, Brian said, **“It’s a sign to quit and do something more fun!”**

He also girdled and treated 7 - 10 Osage-orange trees last fall of various sizes up to 10” DBH with the Crossroad/diesel mixture and they all died. He has used the same basal bark treatment on Tree-of-Heaven (ailanthus) with equal success.

Brian said, “This year I will try to be more scientific and log where I cut/treat honeysuckle, autumn-olive, grapevine and Oriental bittersweet to see if things are re-growing next season. I want to have a better picture of the effectiveness of the treatments. I am also going to investigate other herbicides like Chopper and Pathway, plus using coloring dyes in my herbicide spray mixes so I can easily see stumps already treated.”

### Tricks of the Trade

This article is a fine example of our “Tricks of the Trade” theme. We encourage you to submit short stories on topics your fellow members may benefit from knowing about.