



A Word from the President: Dusty Walter



Hello Missouri Chapter of the Walnut Council!

I have recently been invigorated by the opportunity for our chapter to meet in-person once again! How sweet it was!

On Saturday, May 21st, 36 people attended our **Spring Field Day** at the Juglans Nigra Enterprises Tree Farm (JNE), just outside of Columbia, Missouri. This is the property of Mike Trial and Yolanda Ciolli. First, I want to express my sincere **“thanks”** to Mike and Yolanda for hosting us. Despite rain the night before, the day of the event was excellent and offered great learning opportunities. The field day covered diverse topics, including grazing goats to control competition and invasives, pruning and thinning decisions, a sawmill demonstration and wood production, and use of herbicides to control competition and invasives.

The **JNE Tree Farm** was started by Mike’s father, George Trial, who became our first chapter president in 1984 and continued serving as president until 1992. George began planting trees in the early 1960’s. By 1968 they were certified a Tree Farm. Then, in 1990 George won the Missouri Tree Farmer of the year award. In 2019 son, Mike, a life member of Walnut Council, won the Missouri Tree Farmer of the Year, AND he was selected as Central Region Tree Farmer of the Year! It was great to meet on this Tree Farm and see how Mike and Yolanda have continued the legacy. They currently manage 1,400 black walnut trees. It is impressive!

I also want to thank two more members of our chapter: **Wendy Akers** for serving as our Secretary since March 2019, and **Doug Butler** for volunteering and his election as our new Chapter Secretary! **“Thanks Wendy”** for your service! We look forward to getting better acquainted with Doug and learning about his tree farm north of Columbia.

Along these same lines, I want to encourage everyone to attend this year’s Annual Meeting. On July 24-27, in Carbondale, Illinois, the [2022 Annual Walnut Council Meeting](#) will return – in person! This year’s meeting is titled **“Returning to our Roots”**. This highlights the fact that a little over 50 years ago, the Walnut Council was formed and held their first meeting in Carbondale, Illinois. The meeting will be held on the Southern Illinois University Campus at the Student Center. Hop on-line and look at the agenda, and then complete your registration to attend! I look forward to seeing a strong group from Missouri at this year’s [2022 Annual Walnut Council](#) meeting.

On a very sad note, maybe you already heard, but member, Grant Glatt, passed away in March. <https://www.stlfuneral.com/obituaries/Grant-Glatt/#!/Obituary>. If you would like to send a card to his wife Joyce: 7162 Local Hillsboro Road, Cedar Hill MO 63016-3505.

Stay healthy and celebrate life,

Dusty

Oust XP Herbicide Rate Question

Jim Ball, Member, Missouri Chapter

During the field portion of our Walnut Council meeting held May 21, 2022, hosted by Mike Trial and Yolanda Ciolli at their award winning tree farm near Columbia, I presented material on controlling fescue and other undesirable species with herbicides using spray equipment. However, this article only covers the question raised during my presentation concerning the application rate for using Oust XP. One of the items I showed was a photo of a field I had treated using Oust sprayed over the tops of little hardwood trees prior to bud break to illustrate the effectiveness of that herbicide in controlling fescue even when the fescue is dormant and **prior to tree bud break**.

This photo (**shown below**) triggered a question about the proper dosage of Oust XP in that specific situation. The purpose of this article is to clarify my response to that question. Unfortunately, the issue is not black and white in all situations. I will now attempt to explain what I mean.

My presentation included a description of herbicides to use in various situations with spraying over the tops of hardwood seedlings being just one example. I did not attempt to prescribe a proper dosage to use in all possible uses of this product. I did note the dosage of Oust XP is small. I emphasized the need to calibrate your spraying equipment, and I gave a brief description of how to calibrate. After showing the photo of a

field where I had used Oust XP, I was asked what the dosage had been.

This photo triggered a question about the rate applied spraying over one year old oak seedlings.



As background in that application, the label provided by the producer, Bayer, prescribes a range of 1 to 4 ounces per acre. My response to the question was 1½ oz. per acre which is on the low end of the range recommended on the label. As you can see from this photo, there is no apparent damage to the trees, but the fescue has been killed.

The MU Extension representative asking the question suggested my dosage was too high. He further stated there were verbal reports of herbicide damage to little trees in sandy soils in Missouri. (Subsequently, it was determined these reports were anecdotal and no documentation was found.) Further, he said a rate of ¾ ounce per acre should be used. I thanked him for his input and told the audience this discussion was a good example how Walnut Council meetings stimulate dialogue on key topics. However, after more reflection, I think we need to clarify the rate issue and not leave landowners in a quandary of what they should do on their tree farm.

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About Missouri Chapter News

Missouri Chapter News is distributed to members of the Missouri Chapter, Walnut Council and selected guests. The newsletter is intended to keep members informed about timely events while also distributing general information about the management of fine hardwoods. Members are encouraged to provide feedback about this outreach approach and suggest topics for future issues. Comments and suggestions can be emailed to [Bob Ball](#), Newsletter Editor. During the year we will also distribute “**technical articles**” on specific topics of interest to woodland landowners. Both the newsletters and technical articles are being archived at our [chapter website](#).

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To the best of my knowledge, I have never experienced any damage to little trees using Oust XP in various situations on my farm over the last nearly 20 years, albeit I have very little-to-no sandy soil and most of my soils have a pretty high clay content. Actually, because of the higher clay content, I have planted many more acres of oak species than I have of black walnut. An estimate of black walnut would be in the range of 25 - 30 acres where I used Oust. Oaks would be 200+ acres. (I have not found that the species of tree matters relative to the usage of Oust based upon my readings.)

In an effort to get better insight, I contacted the producer of Oust XP, Bayer. I talked with someone who represented themselves as an authority who told me the company stands by their recommendations on the label backed up by extensive research and study that is part of the labeling process. (I have been told it takes about a \$100,000,000 per product to go through that process. I have no idea if that is accurate, but I am sure it costs a lot of money to provide the evidence to convince the EPA of the veracity of the label information.)

I was also told by the Bayer representative there was nothing in their records that indicated any reports of problems using Oust XP on sandy soils. Evidently, those reports of damage in sandy soils never made it to Bayer.

One chapter member provided a report showing field studies carried out by foresters in Indiana years ago that recommended lower levels of Oust than the label rate. However, I could find no information to explain the reasons for the lower recommendation or anything about specific circumstances such as soil texture. I have not been able to find any documented research that clarifies the need for using the mentioned lower rates. If someone has any other insight, please let me know.

Until something else develops, such as published research findings with more specific outcomes, the best we can do is always **READ** and **FOLLOW** the directions on the herbicide label. Please especially *read the verbiage about varying the dosage according to soil conditions*. If you are still in doubt, I recommend calling the Bayer telephone number on the label or ask your chemical supplier to contact Bayer on your behalf.

I hope this discussion about the rate of Oust XP does not discourage anyone from using this excellent product in controlling tall fescue which I believe to be the **'mother of all evil competition'** when it comes to growing hardwood trees. There is considerable research that proves fescue seriously reduces growth of hardwood trees. There are also other herbicide products, like glyphosate or simazine (Princep) that can play a role as well, but not in the unique manner Oust XP kills dormant and growing fescue with residual properties to inhibit new grass germination. Regardless of your choice of action, be cognizant of the fact

fescue is toxic to hardwood trees and you should control it to give your seedlings the best chance of survival and vigorous future growth.



Jim Ball shared his experiences in using spray equipment and herbicides to control grasses around and over hardwood trees.

Missouri Chapter, Walnut Council Activities

Spring Field Day - May 21st
Hosted By: "Juglans Nigra Enterprises"



Goats can be a viable option to controlling invasive species according to Jeff DeShon with "Goats on the Go Mid-MO, LLC".



This beautiful scene can present conflicts between tall fescue and hardwood trees. Fescue is toxic to hardwood trees.



Above: Chapter President, Dusty Walter, welcomes 36 attendees at the Boone County Extension Center.

Left: Harlan Palm, Walnut Council Past President and a Chapter President, describes how to manage black walnut restoration along creeks.



This black walnut tree came down recently in a horse pasture following heavy rains. The landowners are concerned about the possible toxicity from this tree to their horses. Family pet, Apollo, stands guard.
Photo by Debbie Iverson.

Black Walnut Toxicity

Dusty Walter, President, Missouri Chapter

Walnut Council recently received an inquiry from a family near Cuba, Missouri, concerned about a large black walnut tree having fallen down in their horse pasture following excessive rains. They are “concerned about the toxic effect black walnut can have on horses.”

Black walnut is toxic to horses, and some plants too. For horses, most articles on toxicity emphasize the inner wood that can sometimes be found in shavings, **HOWEVER** – it is the compound called **juglone** is the causal agent in issues of toxicity and it **can occur in leaves, roots, bark and wood**.

In this case, where a tree has blown down a horse may have access to more leaves. Over consumption of those black walnut leaves could cause issues. Here are a few good web sites that can help with symptom expression in horses. One article does note: “Symptoms usually disappear within hours after the horse is removed from the shavings; however laminitis can present further problems”.

The following references highlight concerns with black walnut around garden plants, especially tomatoes:

<http://www.horsedvm.com/poisonous/black-walnut/>

<https://extension.umn.edu/horse-pastures-and-facilities/black-walnut-toxic-horse-bedding>

<https://thehorse.com/18073/will-black-walnuts-hurt-horses/>

<https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/ho/ho-193.pdf>

Begin Planning Now to Harvest Timber

Bob Ball, Member

Our information and education to Walnut Council members focuses greatly on how to establish and manage our hardwood timber, but maybe we fail to think far enough ahead to the harvesting phase. This article looks at how to plan a successful timber harvest although that event may not occur for another fifty years. Planning to harvest your timber begins now.

Initially, I thought I would share some specifics about our timber harvests, but our tree farm is so distant I am not sure how relevant those details would be to our Missouri Chapter members. Variations in climate, soils, site indexes, species, growth rates, and pricing suggest I focus, instead, on those elements we share when removing our trees from the forest. Here are a few suggestions I have learned from our seven successful timber harvests between 1989 and 2022.

Do not take lightly my recommendation to involve a forester when planning a timber harvest. I can not beat that drum loudly enough. Explore options between Missouri Department of Conservation Foresters and private consulting foresters asking if these candidates can administer a timber sale, and if so, what sales experience have they had? **Department foresters can help landowners with marketing and selling timber under MDC guidelines.** Consulting foresters administer many of the private timber sales in Missouri for a fee. For a listing of members in the Missouri Consulting Foresters Association go to: [Missouri Consulting Foresters Association - Homepage \(missouriforesters.com\)](http://Missouri Consulting Foresters Association - Homepage (missouriforesters.com)) and click on **“Find a Consulting Forester”**.

Successful planning now for a future harvest needs to have input from others who may become involved in the extraction of your timber. I am assuming this process will remain largely the same in the years ahead, but who knows? In fifty years, we may well be removing logs via large drones! By “others” I am suggesting you gather input from adjoining property owners as may be necessary, anyone who leases or rents your lands to include livestock farmers or hunt clubs, your township trustees or county engineer, and utility companies who may become involved to include even interviewing local log buyers to get their perspectives on skidding, loading, and hauling logs from your property or from specific sites on your tree farm. Draft a **“Timber Harvest Plan”** with direct assistance from your forester factoring in what you have learned from talking to others who may have an impact on your harvest.

One issue I have been faced with over the years is the fact we have built miles of fence to exclude cattle from our woodlands. However, I failed to view timber harvesting from the other side of the fence. The positioning of fence lines and gates was determined by the movement of cattle from one paddock to another with not enough consideration for skidding 60’ logs out of the woods. Our consulting forester made the comment recently, **“It’s obvious a cattleman planned this fencing system with no input from a forester.”** Removing gates and gate posts or cutting new openings into fences to extract logs is costly and frustrating.

The logging companies in our sales are now almost exclusively using semitrailers (See photo, right) to haul full log lengths relying on the operator of the head saw at the mill to determine milling lengths. No one in the field cuts a log unless it is too long to fit on the truck. This method of hauling introduces new parameters in siting log landing areas. Drivers of these big rigs must be able to navigate curves, steep grades, narrow road widths, culverts, bridges, avoid overhead obstacles while driving heavy loads over all weather surfaces. Logs are loaded with heavy log...



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loaders needing stable soils with enough space to store logs being skidded to the log deck (landing area). Log loaders must be adjacent to a road or parking area for the trucks (**See photo below**). Logging crews will typically fell trees during periods of wet weather, but delay skidding until soil conditions are more favorable. However, the sawmills keep running so loading operations continue regardless of the weather at the woods providing enough logs have been skidded to the landing site. A log landing site needs room for the log loader, travel routes for skidding and enough area to store lots of logs with enough firm soil or road surface to park and load logging trucks.



We have miles of logging trails maintained for future logging operations and to accommodate utility vehicle travel for hunting and routine woodland activities. Plan the location of these skid trails or logging roads carefully paying attention to the skidding distance from the core of your woods or timber stands to the landing areas. Increasing fuel prices make this travel distance even more critical. Consider steep grades, wet spots (springs or seeps) where skidders can get hung up, and the need for straight-line skidding distances as much as possible and locations for bridges or culverts.

Abrupt turns or even gradual angles in skidding trails likely means the skidder will use **“bumper trees”** to navigate tight spaces which damages unharvested trees or severely damaged trees are then included in the harvest as specified in your contract. Drivers of log skidders do not like to “spin logs” to get them thru a narrow, poorly located cattle gate. (**See photo below. We used a powerline right-of-way to obtain a straight, but up-hill, skid to avoid navigating gates into pastures. Note the waterbars!**)



The harvest plan should include specifics about how the logging operation will generally be carried out, but that plan does not replace the need for a timber contract. This document is typically prepared by your forester then signed by the log buyer and landowner. The contract usually refers to specifications that become an addendum to the contract that include language about installing waterbars, turnouts, seeding operations, suspending harvests due to weather, the timing of harvest operations and much more. Develop those contractual documents well in advance of announcing your timber sale so potential buyers understand how they are expected to perform working on your land. Do not advertise for bids they show the winning bidder a complex contract that includes unforeseen costs.

I highly recommend using a timber sale contract, advertising for bids and requiring the buyer to present proof of liability coverage as well as posting a performance bond. Timber prices vary dramatically based on many factors. Your forester will prepare a sales estimate based on the sales volume by species and numbers of trees and whether this estimate is made public varies. I also recommend your forester designate...

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potential veneer quality trees in the bid announcement and then mark those trees with a “V” or a number in the woods. The buyer then has some indication this sale may include high quality fine hardwood trees.

Woodland landowners in Missouri have access to numerous documents that provide standards and specifications for conducting a successful timber harvest as well as sample contracts. Consulting foresters typically use a contract they have reviewed with their attorney, and there may be reluctance in altering contract language for a variety of reasons. Log buyers become accustomed to what is expected when signing a contract represented by that forester and attorneys for the forester and the buyer are accustomed to contract language. Locations or samples of these documents are available upon request.



One important aspect that should not be overlooked is the clean-up of the log landing area following loading operations. (See photo, left.)

Typically, these sites have tons of bark, log chunks and other debris that must be disposed of by the logger as per language in the contract. It will be convenient for them if you **have a disposal site nearby** and they can simply use a dozer to push that debris overland to a large gully or ravine. Overlooking this requirement in your sale contract can mean bringing the logger back at your expense to clean up tons of debris.

Finally, be clear who is responsible for seeding all disturbed soil, the landing area, skid trails, turnouts and waterbars. Seeding specifications should be clearly understood before the contract is signed. The forester can include an estimate of the volume of seed needed so the seed will be on hand and spread as the equipment leaves the work areas in the woods.

Be certain to receive 100% of the contract payment BEFORE logging operations begin!

Help Grow Our Membership!

Our nearly 150 Missouri Chapter members take pride in informing and educating woodland landowners, but the leaders of the chapter can not be everywhere all the time.

Your help is requested in growing our membership by reaching out to woodland landowners looking for advice and recommendations to help them manage their woodlands. These folks may be family members, relatives, friends, neighbors or work colleagues . If you can provide us with their contact information by sending an email to:

mowalnutcouncil@gmail.com

we will follow-up with them. **THANKS!**