Basal Bark vs. Cut, Stack & Burn

Applying Basal Bark Herbicide

* Triclopyr ester (Garlon 4 or equivalent) applied to lower 12” of dry trunk and root flares
	+ Effective on most tree species < 8” dbh
		- Bush honeysuckle shows some resistance
		- Black locust at high concentrations in summer to fall only
	+ Diluted to 13% - 25% in oil
		- Drexel Bean Oil (60% Soybean) good
	+ No toxicity to monocots (grasses, sedges, etc.)
	+ Typically applied in late fall to winter

Advantages of Basal Bark Herbiciding

* Fast and inexpensive
* No chainsaws needed
	+ Much quieter, no hearing hazards and more pleasant working
	+ No risk of serious injury from chainsaws
	+ No air pollution from saws
* No brush piles
	+ No burn pile scars
	+ No risk to herptiles
	+ No risk of burnt people or clothing
* Minimal ground disturbance
	+ No tree removal or felling impacts
		- Trees rot, fall apart and then fall down
* Creates habitat trees
	+ For birds, insects and fungi
* Creates downed wood on ground over a period of years
	+ Creates areas that are difficult to walk through
		- Reduces deer browse in those areas
	+ Down branches may create fire skips
	+ Rotting trees feed the soil
* More gradual change in viewshed
	+ Larger trees often die over several years
	+ People often don’t look up to see that trees are dead
	+ Scattered dead trees may be considered natural

Disadvantages of Basal Bark Herbiciding

* Uses more herbicide
	+ Becomes increasingly costly when applied to larger trees
* May create ring of death around trunks (broad leaf species only)
* Standing dead trees create a safety hazard when falling
	+ Not used where trees may fall into high use area
		- Playgrounds
		- Parking lots
		- Trails
		- Roads
* Dense areas of basal barked pole trees may create impenetrable areas of downed wood
	+ Difficult to apply follow up herbicide once poles start falling
	+ May create equivalent to Slash conditions when prescription burning
* Thickets may be too dense to enter and apply basal bark treatment

Where Basal Bark Applications may be advantageous

* Away from trails, roads, parking lots and high use areas
* Where noise is undesirable
* Where treated vegetation is relatively sparse