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