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## Autumn Olive Control

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Autumn olive is an invasive species in Michigan that has the ability to take over a site and reduce or eliminate native vegetation such as grasses and tree seedlings. Because of its ability to dominate a site it is recommended that it be eradicated wherever it is found.

Mowing or cutting the shrub off at the ground will cause the shrub to regrow thicker than it was before cutting. Mechanical control without herbicides is not effective. On large and dense infestations it may be necessary to perform mechanical control followed with herbicides.

The easiest method is to use herbicides when the shrubs are small and easily covered with an application to the foliage. A 1-2% solution of glyphosate (trade name Roundup) in water applied evenly over the foliage enough to wet it but not run off should kill small plants. This will also kill grasses and tree seedlings that are sprayed when making the application. Late summer is the best time for foliar applications.

The basal spray method involves spraying the lower 12-16 inches of the trunk above the groundline. It is necessary to fully encircle the trunk. This method works well when infestations are sparse enough to walk through on foot. Use Garlon-4 in a 20-30% solution with crop oil (diesel fuel will work). PathfinderII is a ready to use mixture of Garlon-4 and crop oil. 2-4-D will also work with this method but is not as effective. Spray the trunk until run-off is noticeable at the ground line. This type of application can occur anytime during the year as long as the base of the shrub can be reached. Basal applications will work on shrubs and trees up to 6 inches in diameter. Caution is recommended when using these chemicals near wetlands as they are toxic to fish and aquatic invertebrates, these chemicals should also not be used when the water table is at or near the surface to prevent groundwater contamination.

The cut stump method will work on trees and shrubs larger than 6 inches. Apply a solution of glyphosate or 2-4-D mixed according to the label to the freshly cut stump, making sure to cover the stem and the outer 1 inch of the stump. It is necessary to treat the stumps within 1 hour of cutting. A paint brush works well for an applicator but chances of getting the solution on your hands is high. A small sprayer at very low pressure also works with less chances of getting the solution on your hands. This method involves considerably more work but is effective on larger stems. Late summer is the best time of year for the cut stump method of treatment.

These recommendations should allow you to gain control over established autumn olive but remember, the birds will always carry in more seed so it is important to be on the lookout for new infestations.

**Caution: When using any herbicide please remember that they are potentially dangerous chemicals. It is imperative to always read and follow any warning and instruction labels.**

Additional information:

General information about Autumn Olive from The Nature Conservancy of Indiana

<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/indiana/journeywithnature/autumn-olive.xml>

Michigan DNR Report, July 2007: *An Evaluation of Chemical Treatment and Burning on the Control of Autumn Olive*. This is a detailed scientific report.

<http://ww2.dnr.state.mi.us/publications/pdfs/HuntingWildlifeHabitat/Reports/WLD-library/3400-3499/3471.pdf>