



PREScribed FIRE NEWSLETTER

WINTER
2020

upcoming events >>>

Alabama Black Bears, November 18

Location: Zoom Webinar

Register: Contact Bence Carter 334-389-4055 or
jbc0057@aces.edu

Heirs Property, November 19

Location: Zoom Webinar

Register: Contact Robert Tuft 334-734-2120 or
tuftsra@auburn.edu

Longleaf Establishment and Management on
Private lands, December 2

Location: Zoom Webinar

Register: Contact Bence Carter 334-389-4055 or
jbc0057@aces.edu

Estate Planning For Landowners, December 17

Location: Zoom Webinar

Register: Contact Robert Tuft 334-734-2120 or
tuftsra@auburn.edu

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Important Numbers

To Obtain a Burning Permit:
(800) 392-5679

For fire weather resources visit:
www.forestry.alabama.gov/Pages/Fire/Burn_Weather.aspx



What is Ips Beetle and will it kill pine trees?

While the Ips Beetle is not as well-known as the Southern Pine Beetle, it can be just as harmful to the Southern pine trees. Ips Beetle damage is often mistaken for the damage done by Southern Pine Beetles and careful identification should be taken to determine what species of beetle are causing the destruction in a timber stand. The beetle bores into and creates tunnels just under the bark where it feeds and reproduces. Life cycle of the beetle can be short or long depending on the season (only a few weeks in the summer or up to several months in the winter).

The bark-boring Ips Beetles can attack healthy Southern pine trees but mainly focus their efforts on stressed trees. The trees that are infested with the beetle will start to die, and presence of pitch tubes may be seen on the tree. Pitch tubes are a mixture of sap and dust from the boring that are protruding from the bark of the tree. If the tree has been dead for a while the bark may also be sloughing off and the presence of the boring patterns can be seen.

These boring patterns are noteworthy because they are different from those of the Southern pine beetle. The Ips Beetle

boring patterns will have "H" or "Y" shapes while the Southern Pine Beetle will have more of an "S" shaped form. The destruction pattern of the Ips Beetle also differs from the Southern Pine Beetle. Destruction from an Ips beetle will be more scattered and randomized across a forest area because the species will typically only attack the weak and stressed trees in contrast to the Southern Pine Beetle which will move more linearly and typically create a large spot pattern.

Landowners can protect their pines from the Ips beetles in several ways. First make sure that you have a healthy stand where the trees are not stressed. After a logging operation, make sure to remove the debris piles from the standing trees. This can be done with fire or mechanical removal. Harvesting during the winter months is ideal to reduce the chance of beetle damage. Also any trees that have damage from machinery need to be cut and removed from the site. Through effective forest management and sound harvesting techniques, the risk of damage from the Ips Beetles can be minimized. 🌲



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- ★ Educate the next generation
- ★ Promote sustainable forest management

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Keep property taxes low / Fight regulatory abuse / Improve education / Reduce landowner liability/ Streamline state government / Improve roads and bridges

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- Landowner / Hunting Club liability insurance
- Prescribed burning insurance
- Quarterly Alabama Forests magazine
- Annual Membership Directory
- Weekly newsletters with the latest news
- Member Alerts about issues impacting your landownership
- Member discounts on all online continuing education

Planning and Developing a Burn Plan

Prior to igniting any prescribed fire, the burn boss should develop a written prescribed burn plan. Preplanning should include fire effects, behavior and suppression. Plan should be based on specific management goals, physical and biological characteristics of the site, environmental factors, equipment and communication needs for the crew. Informing neighbors and local fire departments should also be part of preplanning process. The main focus of a burn plan is to set up a burn that is conducted safely and achieves desired goals and objectives. More specifically the plan should include:

- Burn unit description— location, ownership, acres and boundaries.
- Fuels— forest stand type, fuel loads, fuel type, hazards.
- Maps— aerial photograph provides crew members a visual reference of the burn unit.
- Weather— desired weather

conditions, wind direction and humidity.

- Smoke Management Plan— smoke sensitive areas around burn area, including schools, hospitals or neighborhoods.
- Equipment— what is needed to contain flames and suppression
- Personnel— number of people needed to safely contain burn.
- Pre-burn considerations— firebreaks and required permits.
- Evaluation— after the burn effects, was goals achieved or how to improve next time.

If you would like assistance writing a burn plan contact us or a local Certified Burn manager. 🌲

For more information on forest management plans see *Managing Forest on Private lands in Alabama and the Southeast*.



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