



PREScribed FIRE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER
2022

upcoming events >>>

Butler County Learn to Burn

April 11-15, 2022

[Register](#)

AFA Connect: *Mitigating Liability
Associated with Owning or Managing
Land*

April 21, 2022

[Register](#)

Mobile County Learn to Burn

May 9-13, 2022

[Register](#)

Monroe County Learn and Burn

May 23-27, 2022

[Register](#)

Alabama Certified Burn Manager Course
Foley, AL

June 27-30, 2022

Registration opening April 15th on Alabama
Forestry Commission's [website](#)

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Important Contact Information

To Obtain a Burn Permit:

(800) 392-5679

For Fire Weather Resources:

[Alabama Forestry Commission](#)

Prescribed Burn Insurance Application:

[Alabama Forestry Association](#)



Cogongrass Control Assistance

Now that spring has officially begun, white flowering grass can be spotted throughout south Alabama's landscape. Many would agree the grass, while flowering, is alluring to the eyes, but it can wreak havoc to landowners. The white flowering grass, Cogongrass, is listed as a federally noxious weed. It originated from tropical areas but has taken root in the southeastern United States since its introduction in the early 1900's.

Cogongrass can be found practically anywhere along roads, inside forest stands as well as yards. Leaves are typically two to three feet tall, often exhibiting a yellowish-green color. Edges of leaves will have serrated teeth you can feel when running your hands down the edge of the leaves. It grows in thick circular patches and easily out competes desired native plants. Ultimately, it creates a monotypic stand useless for wildlife. It spreads through sharp horizontal underground stems, or rhizomes, which can pierce through roots of other plants including desirable vegetation such as pine trees and native forbs.

Eradication of this weed can be incredibly difficult. It is important to begin control methods as soon as it is identified on the property. The good news is that several programs are available to help land managers reduce or eliminate the spread of this noxious weed. The following programs offer control assistance if the plant has been identified on your property.

The USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Services offers programs to help private landowners spray herbicides. If your land is enrolled into an NRCS contract, you could be eligible for financial assistance. If this practice is not already part of your contract, contact your local NRCS District Conservationists to ask if treating cogongrass can be added to your contract.

Another opportunity currently being offered is through the Longleaf Alliance. This program consists of a seven-county focal area focused around Conecuh National Forest. To inquire about the program, contact program coordinator Vernon Compton at vernon@longleafalliance.org. 🌲



Using Prescribed Fire in Loblolly Pines

Loblolly pine is widely used by forest landowners in Alabama and is well suited to prescribed fire. Using burning as a management tool in even aged loblolly stands can be very effective, but like any tool, landowners should consider the specific needs of the species when planning a burn.

Unlike longleaf, young loblolly can be damaged by fire. For juvenile loblolly, landowners should wait until the stand is at least 5 years old, or is ~4 inches in diameter and ~15 feet tall before burning. Even at that size, you should consider using a cool season burn and backfire to avoid damage and mortality. Winter season prescribed burns are usually low-intensity, and can help the loblolly pines when planned and conducted correctly.

As loblolly stands mature, regular use of fire can help control woody competition for pines that could otherwise reduce growth of desired trees. In addition to the benefits for the trees themselves, a regular schedule of prescribed fire can promote open canopies and stimulate the growth of ground vegetation

preferred by many game species, such as deer, turkey, and quail. The use of regular fire also helps landowners reduce the risk of wildfire damage.

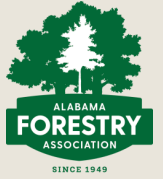
Fire frequency in mature loblolly can be tailored to the specific management objectives and ground conditions. While some landowners achieve their desired results by burning every 1-3 years, other landowners may see equal success in their stands by burning every 2-5+ years. Knowing what your desired outcome is for the use of prescribed fire is critical as you determine when and where to burn.

The appearance of a loblolly stand can be improved with regular use of prescribed fire by increasing visibility and accessibility. These benefits can be enjoyed for recreational activities such as hunting or hiking but can also be used for planning future harvest activities. The increased access can be a incentive for potential timber buyers and loggers. 🌲

For more information about the use of prescribed fire in loblolly [visit](#).

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