

## Glossary of Terms: Invasive Plant Identification and Treatment

**Basal Bark Spraying** – an herbicide application technique used on young or thin-barked trees to kill them in place. Herbicide is sprayed onto the lower 2-3 feet of the trunk and absorbed through the bark, moving downward through the vascular system to kill the roots.



**Biological Control** – a range of invasive plant treatment approaches that use biological agents such as animals, insects, viruses, bacteria or fungi to control selected invasive species.



**Broadleaf Specific Herbicide** – an herbicide that is formulated to kill only broadleaf plants. They can be used in a mixed setting of broadleaves and grasses without affecting the grasses.

**Brush Cutter (Clearing Saw)** – a string trimmer attachment that comprises a round saw blade in place of string to cut woody plant stems.



**Bush Hog** – a heavy-duty mower, usually pulled behind a tractor, used to control invasive plants that can be treated by mowing.



**Chemical Control** – a range of invasive plant treatment approaches that use chemical agents, i.e., herbicides.

**Cut Now/Spray Later** – an invasive plant treatment technique that involves cutting (usually mowing using a bush hog) without immediately following with application of an herbicide. Instead, regrowth is monitored after cutting and herbicides are only applied to invasive regrowth. This reduces the overall amount of herbicide applied.

**Cut Stump** - an invasive plant treatment technique that involves cutting an invasive plant at or near ground level, then applying an herbicide to the point where the cut was made to kill the roots and prevent growback.



**Cuttings** – plant material left after using cut stump or other cutting or pulling techniques that need to be properly disposed of in order to prevent re-rooting, e.g., English ivy.

**Dauber Bottle** – an herbicide applicator that includes a bottle with a sponge or wool tip. This allows herbicide to be applied using the cut stump technique with no dripping or overspray, minimizing the amount of herbicide entering the environment.



**Drip Bottle** - an herbicide applicator bottle that has a pop-up nozzle, allowing herbicide to be dripped precisely onto a cut stump or into the wound created using the hack and squirt method.



**Foliar Spray** – an herbicide application technique that involves spraying an herbicide onto the leaves of an invasive plant (see “pressure sprayer”).



**Forest Mulcher** – a land clearing machine that uses a rotary drum with steel chipper teeth that shred vegetation. This technique is typically used when an area has been completely overrun by invasives and few if any native plants remain. Use of this technique is followed by monitoring the treated area for growback.



**Girdling** – a technique used to kill a tree in place, without need to cut it down. It involves making a continuous cut around the entire trunk that penetrates about an inch into the tree wood, severing the main vascular tissue.

**Grass Specific Herbicide** - an herbicide formulated to kill only grass species. It can be used in a mixed setting of broadleaves and grasses without affecting the broadleaf species.

**Growback** – the tendency of a plant to continue to grow from food stored in its roots even if the above-ground portion of the plant has been removed and assuming that the root system remains viable. Growback is the reason herbicides are applied when using the cut stump and hack and squirt methods.

**Grubbing** – a mechanical (manual) invasive plant removal technique involving severing the above-ground portion (crown) of an invasive plant such as kudzu from the underground portion (tuber.)



**Hack and Squirt (Frill Girdling)** - a technique used to kill a tree in place. Unlike girdling, where cuts are continuous around the trunk, frill girdling cuts are made with space left between them and an herbicide is introduced into the wounds to kill the roots before the tree can initiate root sprouting.



**Hand Pruner/Pruning Shears**  
– heavy-duty hand cutting tools that can sever vines or branches up to an inch thick.



**Hand Sprayer/Spray Bottle** – a non-pressurized container of herbicide with an adjustable nozzle that can spray or squirt its contents for cut stump, hack and squirt or foliar application.



**Herbicide** – a substance that is toxic to plants.

**Lopper** – a long-handled version of pruning shears. Their greater length and cutting power make them a versatile addition to hand pruners for invasive plant treatment using the cut stump technique.



**Mattock** – a hand tool for digging and chopping, used in a treatment technique referred to as grubbing.



**Non-native invasive plant:** A species that evolved in a different ecosystem from where it is now found, and flourishes in the new ecosystem at the expense of native species. Also commonly referred to as weeds, exotics or noxious plants.

**Nonselective Herbicide** – an herbicide formulated to kill any plant that it contacts.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Equipment and apparel such as boots, gloves, goggles, helmets, etc., intended to protect the wearer from the elements, tools, herbicides, etc.

**Physical Control** – a range of invasive plant control that require the use of manual techniques such as hand-pulling, mowing, etc

**Pre-Emergent Herbicide** – an herbicide formulated to keep seeds from sprouting. Timing the use of these herbicides is critical. They must be used prior to sprouting (see the Virginia Department of Forestry Herbicide Recommendation Chart for timing information by type of invasive plant.)

**Pressure Sprayer** – an herbicide applicator in bottle or tank form that uses pressure to allow for a consistent, on-demand spray that can be controlled over longer distances than unpressurized spray bottles.



**Sail Effect** - the effect that invasive vines have of increasing wind resistance and top heaviness of trees leading to a greater tendency to topple them during high winds or ice storms.

**Sanitation** - steps that need to be taken to keep treated invasives from seeding, re-rooting or otherwise propagating after cutting, e.g., removal from the site and proper disposal.

**Seed Bed** – the accumulation of invasive plant seeds on the forest or meadow floor leading to new growth and the need for continued monitoring and treatment.

**String Trimmer** – a gas-engine, electric or battery-operated tool that uses a nylon string to cut grass and other small plants and is typically used in areas that can't be easily reached using lawn mowers or bush hogs. Higher quality string trimmers are made to allow replacement of the string trimming attachment with various kinds of saw blades for grass and larger plants (see "Brush cutter")

