

WILDLIFE TRENDS

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Controlling Undesirable Hardwoods – One at a Time

By Scott A. Houston

As many of you have read, most forestland in the southeast (and many other parts), is no longer managed by Mother Nature. If it were, occasional catastrophic wildfires would rage through the landscape to effectively thin the forests. Our necessary interference with nature, in the form of wildfire control (for community safety), creates this artificial condition. This unnatural condition of overgrown forests results in weakened forest health and a limitation of sunlight interception on the forest floor. The consequences are suppressed pine crop tree growth and shaded elimination of nutritious herbaceous plants that limits animal health and carrying capacity. New, smart, selective forest herbicides have become synonymous with wildlife habitat improvement. They are rapidly replacing old management styles that rely on the use of mechanical techniques such as mowers, chop-



*“Mother Nature” on the left; improved with **Arsenal** on the right.*

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