



Winter: The perfect time to rid property of Russian olives

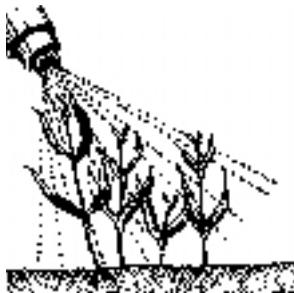
Proper removal methods and periodic monitoring is the key to removing pesky Russian olives (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*). These methods are often performed at different times of the year, including fall and winter. Performing this work in winter while the ground is frozen has the added plus of limiting any ground disturbance that may occur. Such disturbances foster weed infestations!



Russian olive spreads via seeds that remain viable for up to three years, sprouting from buds on the root crown, and suckering. Roots systems are extensive, with well-developed lateral roots. Re-sprouts from roots and the root crown are common after injury to the aboveground portion. Digging the rootball can be time-consuming and, in many instances, requires heavy equipment. If all roots are not removed, new shoots will emerge with a vengeance!

An Integrated Approach

An integrated use of several treatment methods is the best strategy to rid property of these thorny pests. This method includes prevention, cultural/mechanical controls, chemical treatment, revegetation, and monitoring. There are generally three widely used practices to treat Russian olive and may involve a combination of mechanical and chemical treatments. Typical products for this species may include triclopyr, imazapyr, 2,4-D, glyphosate, or a combination of these.



Foliar treatment - The whole tree is sprayed late spring to early summer after the target trees have fully leafed out and are actively growing. Any size tree can be treated, but you may be limited in effectively covering the entire surface of a large tree. Avoid off target damage to other broadleaf plants by following label directions on the herbicide container. The entire tree must be treated. Spray the herbicide (herbicide, adjuvant, water as listed on the label) to the point of runoff. Follow-up treatments may be necessary.

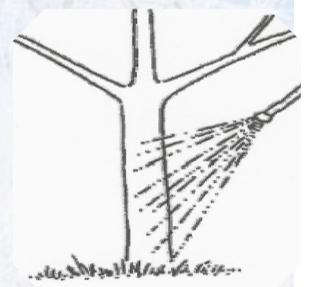
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Basal bark treatment - This can be done any time as long as the stems and immediate area surrounding them are not covered in snow. Works best on trees < 3 1/2 inches in diameter. A backpack sprayer at minimum is needed. Using the herbicide solution (herbicide plus basal bark oil), spray stems from the crown (where the stem meets the ground) up 18-30 inches. Completely cover the entire surface of each stem - the product should be visible. Treatments should be monitored because trees may take more than a year to die.



Cut stump treatment - This method is best for mature and/or well-established populations with trees more than 3 1/2 inches in diameter. Mechanically cut, mow, or shear each tree. The tree will begin to heal itself immediately, and the herbicide (herbicide plus bark oil) should be applied within 15 minutes. Using a spray apparatus or a paintbrush, thoroughly coat the entire cut surface, outside of the stump, and pay special attention to the area just inside the bark (cambium). Monitor the following season for re-sprouts.

Resprouting: If there is resprouting the season following treatments, the foliar method is the best option for retreatment. Apply the herbicide when sprouts have leafed out and are actively growing - preferably when about 2-3 feet tall, to increase the leaf surface area that will allow more herbicide to contact the sprout and be carried to the roots. Treated when small, this follow-up treatment should require less time and resources. Finding new individual infestations of plants and treating while young should be a high priority after this initial treatment. Continued monitoring is important.

Consider Revegetation

After removal, revegetation may be necessary to prevent new infestations of Russian olive and other weedy species from taking over



again. In many instances, the removal of the Russian olive alone is enough to trigger regeneration of desirable native species should they be present in the removal area. If not, seek out a reliable source, such as the University of Wyoming Extension Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, or your local conservation districts for revegetation suggestions. Whether you are removing these invasive species from wetlands or riparian areas, or to increase the productivity of your property, domestic animals and wildlife benefit. Most participants of removal projects report an increase in not only the number of wildlife present, but also a greater variety of wildlife species.

Cost share may be available. Call 307-754-4521 or 307-527-8885. Check out the complete article @ <http://parkcountyweeds.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Russian-Olive-Treatment.pdf>

Cost share is Available for Most Noxious species!

Powell 307-754-4521 or Cody 307-527-8885