
FOREST STEWARDSHIP BRIEFINGS

Timber Wildlife Water Quality Soil Conservation Best Management Practices Recreation Aesthetics

TEXAS FOREST SERVICE P. O. Box 310 Lufkin, Texas 75902 work@tfs.tamu.edu October 2000

USFS Injunction Annulled Oak and Water Use

On September 20, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals are finding that the state's live oak trees are usually prized on rangelands tend to use less water than those dominated by junipers. The people have thought that juniper followed a May 2000 en banc [full court] decision that most of the available water on a rangeland, a 1-member Fifth Circuit Court panel in New Orleans, Louisiana, is drawn from underground into the Edwards Aquifer.

The 1997 injunction had been issued by Judge Keith Owens, a range scientist with the Texas Experiment Station in Uvalde. "The study in Schell for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas following a May 1996 trial in Beaumont. According to Forest Supervisor Ronnie Raum of Lufkin, the ruling lifting the injunction will be effective when the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals decision is announced in November. Also, in a direct comparison, red cedar trees used about 50% less water than juniper trees.

The opening paragraph of the opinion reads: "Who is the Bad Guy Now? In a year-long study conducted on the Annandale Ranch in northern Uvalde Co., researchers found that cedar trees photosynthesized at the same rate as oak trees, no matter how much or how little rain they received. The oak trees increased their rate of photosynthesis as water availability increased. Of extreme drought, the juniper maintained a similar rate of water use as other times, while the live oak decreased water use slightly. In other words, it was determined that the district court lacked jurisdiction to annul the injunction. The district court's decision was vacated [annulled] and remand [return from one court to another] to the district court for a new trial on the issue of the injunction.

For more information
<http://www.ca5.uscourts.gov/opinions/sub/97/97cv2.HTM>

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Distribution Patterns are Key

In another aspect of the study, the researchers determined how much trees increased their rate of photosynthesis after neighboring trees had been removed. The researchers found that the distribution of remaining trees after clearing brush affected water availability. When 20 trees are left scattered across an acre, they will harvest water over the whole acre. If they are left in groups, the more limited their roots will affect a smaller area. Clearing groups of trees need to be worked into management plans, Owens said.

For more information, contact Keith Owens, Uvalde Co., (830) 278-3300

More . . .

Forest protection advocates are concerned, however, that only one certification program is actually an independent system of the Forest Stewardship Council. Having industry sponsored certification programs that are not independent is like having the fox watch the chickens. Krill of the Rainforest Action Network. "It's more appropriate to have foresters and a certification process."

Derek Jumper of the American Forest and Paper Association (AF&PA) advocates that a certification program he identifies as having the same goals as the others. The market shift by retailers to certified wood products," Jumper says, "but we believe that it's different certification programs."

Other companies that are embracing the FSC standard are Andersen Corp. (windows). Jim Carlton of Wall Street Reports reports that together these Florida wood used in American remodeling market have vowed to follow FSC standards. "There is no question that the fabric of the industry," says Catherine Mater, a forest products consultant in Corvallis.

Others with opposing views have objected to comparing southern forests to the rainforests. The South are the most sustainably managed in the world. The new policies held back are seen as an insult to Certified Tree Farmers who practice sustainable forestry and forest management. These policies are also seen as an infringement on property rights and the free enterprise system. [private lands account for about 90% of the South's commercial timber].

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How to Contact These Companies . . .

Lowe's Companies, Inc.

Customer Service
Box 1111
North Wilkesboro, NC 28656
1-336-658-4000
www.lowes.com
[Bob Tillman is Chairman and CEO]

The Home Depot

Attention: Consumer Affairs
2455 Paces Ferry Road
Atlanta, GA 30339
1-800-430-3376
Feedback form www.homedepot.com

Centex Homes

P. O. Box 199000
Dallas, TX 75220
214-981-5000
www.centexhomes.com
[Andrew J. Hannigan is President and Chief Operating Officer]

84 Lumber Co.

Shawn Ahearn, Public Relations
1-800-664-1984 ext. 1454
www.84lumber.com
[Maggie Hardy Magerko is President]

Andersen Corp.

100 Fourth Ave. North
Bayport, MN 55006
651-264-5150
www.andersencorp.com

Wickes Inc.

706 North Deerpath Dr.
Vernon Hills, IL 60061
1-800-558-1232
www.wickes.com

BITS AND PIECES

CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR LOGGING PROFESSIONALS:

2000 BMP WORKSHOPS

DEC. 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 LUFKIN

2000 BASE II WORKSHOPS (Silviculture, Endangered Species, Wildlife, Wetlands)

NOV. 17 DIBOLL

FOR REGISTRATION, CALL TFA AT (936) 68233

PINE TREE PLANTING WORKSHOPS

OCT. 20 JASPER (First Nat'l Bank Community Room)

OCT. 27 JEFFERSON (Cypress Valley Alliance Building)

NOV. 11 JACKSONVILLE (Norman Activity Center)

NOV. 18 NACOGDOCHES (Donohue Lake)

FOR REGISTRATION, CALL TFS DISTRICT OFFICES

< The newly published *Voluntary Compliance with Forestry Best Management Practices* is available online at

<http://txforestservice.tamu.edu/management/bmp/>

This report documents results from Round 4 of BMP compliance monitoring by the TFS BMP Project.

< For information on herbicides, pesticides and more

American Cyanamid (now BASF) has an interesting website with loads of information on wildlife, pest (including fire ants) products, management, and facts. Go to <http://www.cyanamidspd.com/home.asp> click on

Forestry or Wildlife. They also have a new booklet titled "Brush Control Best Management Practices."

DuPont's website, www.dupont.com/agrus information on their herbicide and pesticide products. Click on Product information, then choose a product type.

WE WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS QUARTER'S NEWSLETTER:

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Oak Wilt Treatments

Over the past few years, claims have been made that oak wilt can be cured or prevented by making vigorous and healthy oaks, boosting their immune systems and therefore helping them resist the pathogen that causes oak wilt. The best way to assess the validity of these claims is by looking at the facts about oak wilt, tree health and immunity.

Healthy is as Healthy Does

The oak wilt fungus is a vascular wilt disease that invades and causes the plugging of the water-conducting tissues of oaks, initiating wilt and eventually death. It is clear that oak wilt does not kill healthy, mature live and red oaks just because it kills stressed ones. A good case can be made that a higher level of vitality a tree has at the time of infection, the more quickly the tree's response begins plugging its vascular system, thus leading to lower mortality. So, the notion that keeping oaks healthy to prevent oak wilt mortality is misleading. From a general tree health perspective, it is better to keep trees healthy by keeping trees vigorous, which can better defend themselves against secondary problems such as insect defoliation, hypoxia, and drought stress.

Proven Treatments

Nearly 2.5 million feet (about 475 miles) of trenching have been installed surrounding nearly 1,700 oak wilt centers since 1988. Trenching severs the root connections (which are the major conduit for oak wilt) between adjacent trees. The cost of trenching is high. Go to <http://www.cyanamidspd.com/home.asp> within the database of the trenches in about 100 cases. Tens of thousands of trees have been treated with Alamo fungicide (propiconazole). While there are failures, there are significantly greater numbers of trees that have survived following these treatments than if they had not been treated.

So, until a better "scientifically proven" treatment is found, individual macroinjections with fungicide and trenching to prevent spread remain the most effective (although not perfect) way to combat this disease today.

For more information, contact Mark Duff, TFS, (830) 425-7000 or tfskerr@ktc.com



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Tree Planting Workshops

The Texas Forest Service is hosting several planting workshops throughout East Texas this year. The workshops will address the needs of landowners who would like to grow pine investments. An Agricultural Extension Service will address the economic return, tax incentives, site preparation, purchasing seedlings, and vendor selection.

A list of upcoming workshops can be found in the "Bits and Pieces" section of this newsletter.

The cost of the workshop is \$10 per person, includes lunch and materials. For more information to register for a workshop, please contact your local TFS office or visit the registration website. Registration must be in one week prior to the scheduled workshop.

For more information visit <http://txforestservicetamu.edu>