

# FOREST STEWARDSHIP BRIEFINGS

Timber ◇ Wildlife ◇ Water Quality ◇ Soil Conservation ◇ Best Management Practices ◇ Recreation ◇ Aesthetics

## ORDINANCES FOR URBAN TREES

from USDA Forest Service  
Southern Region Urban Forestry South homepage

For more information:

- <http://www.urbanforestrysouth.usda.gov/ordinances/index.htm>
- Tree Ordinance Resource List - <http://www.urbanforestrysouth.usda.gov/ordinances/ordinances.htm>
- Urban Tree Ordinance Index - <http://www.urbanforestrysouth.usda.gov/ordinances/index.asp>

One of the more effective tools used by communities to conserve and improve their urban forests is the tree ordinance. Often they are enacted in response to changes from rapid land development. Tree ordinances range in complexity from simple tree replacement standards to more comprehensive ordinances addressing natural resource issues. A reference on writing tree ordinances is the publication, "Tree Conservation Ordinances," written by Chris Duerksen and distributed by the American Planning Association (<http://www.planning.org>).

### City of Austin Tree Ordinance

Austin has a Public Tree Care Ordinance, signed in 1996. This ordinance was passed to regulate the planting, maintenance and removal of trees on public property; establish the office of Urban Forester; provide for the protection of public trees; and provide for trees as part of street improvements.

In this ordinance, "damage" includes: the uprooting of a tree, severance of the root system, severance of the main trunk, the storage of materials or the compaction of soil around a tree, a substantial change in the natural grade above the root system or around the trunk, pruning or removal of more than 25% of living tissue, and paving with impervious materials around a tree. A person damaging a tree on public property will be liable to the City of Austin for any loss of value, as well as any costs for treatment or removal of the tree.

The Urban Forester participates in the planning of major improvements to the road system to ensure the inclusion of

trees as part of the road design. One percent of the actual construction costs of a new roadway or expansion project is to be devoted to the planting of trees.

### City of Dallas Development Code

Dallas has a Development Code for landscape and tree preservation regulations. This code was adopted to aid in stabilizing the environment's ecological balance by contributing to the processes of air purification, oxygen regeneration, groundwater recharge, and storm water runoff retardation, while aiding in noise, glare, wind, and heat abatement; provide visual buffering between land uses of differing character; enhance the beautification of the city; safeguard and enhance property values and protect public and private investment; conserve energy; provide wildlife habitat; and encourage preservation of large trees.

Dallas' code includes sections on acceptable landscape materials, soil depth and dimension requirements, protection of landscape areas, irrigation requirements, and general maintenance.

### Other Cities' Ordinances

The Urban Forestry Program in Odessa began in February of 1995. An urban Forester was cooperatively funded with City money and Federal money administered through the Texas Forest Service. Its purpose is to notify and advise park staff of the Urban Forest's condition and devise a management plan to adequately maintain and enhance City grounds.

West University Place in Houston also has an ordinance for the preservation and enhancement of the city's urban forest.

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## PLANTING TO ATTRACT DOVES

by Tim Cosby, Retired Law Enforcement Section Chief, and Keith Guyse, Wildlife Section Assistant Chief Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, AL

from article in "Alabama's Treasured Forests," Spring 2003

thanks to Micah Poteet, Technical Guidance Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., Lufkin, TX, for Texas adaptations

For more information:

- Local Texas Parks and Wildlife Technical Guidance Biologist, [http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/conserve/wildlife\\_management/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/conserve/wildlife_management/)
- [http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/wildlife\\_habitat/pdf\\_docs/mourning\\_doves.pdf](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/wildlife_habitat/pdf_docs/mourning_doves.pdf)

Hunters and landowners should know that, with a little prior planning and attention to the rules, mourning dove fields can be planted that provide an enjoyable and productive hunt, and be completely legal.

Doves feed almost entirely on seeds of various types, either cultivated or grown naturally. Doves can be hunted near spots they go to for water and around openings of various kinds. However, most dove hunting occurs on fields managed for an ample supply of seeds under conditions the birds prefer.

The challenge is to choose goods crops and plant them at the proper time to produce seeds that mature at just the right time in late summer. Since dove season starts September 1, time the plantings so that the crops mature in mid-August.

Milletts such as browntop, proso and dove proso are favorites for doves and are relatively easy and inexpensive to produce. Corn and grain sorghum require more time to mature but have been used for dove hunting for generations. Sunflowers are attractive for doves but do well only if grown in areas where the young plants won't be damaged by deer.

Specific recommendations for planting and fertilizing crops may vary for different regions of the state. County Extension Agents (Texas Cooperative Extension) are able to provide appropriate information

for the areas they serve.

After a summer crop is grown it can be manipulated in the field prior to hunting season to ensure the seeds are available to doves. Such fields are totally legal under current state and federal law. The crop can be mowed, burned, grazed, disked, etc. in the whole or in segments if necessary to extend its effectiveness for attracting doves. A crop grown for doves must remain on the field. Seed from an outside source cannot be added to the seed grown on the field. It is not legal to remove grain from the field and then redistribute it on the field. It is also not legal to store grain on the field where it is grown and then redistribute it on the field or move the grain from one location on the field to another location and redistribute it. Normally harvested fields of grain may be hunted over.

How and when to plant certain crops:

**Corn** - plant in rows; plant on recommended dates of Extension Service for variety; seed rate - as recommended for soil type.

**Dove proso millet** - broadcast; plant 1st-2nd week in June; seed rate - 20 lbs/acre.

**Brown top millet** - broadcast; plant 1st-2nd week in June; seed rate - 20 lbs/acre.

**Grain sorghum** - broadcast or rows; plant 1st-2nd week in May; seed rate - 20-25 lbs/acre.

**Sunflower** - plant in rows; plant 1st-2nd week in May; seed rate - 10 lbs/acre.

## NONNATIVE INVASIVE PLANTS

The USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station has a new book available which provides landowners assistance in identification of the most serious invasive plants in the Southern Region. The book focuses on 33 plant species or groups and also provides control recommendations to follow in combating these invasive species. This 93-page report also lists other nonnative plants of growing concern, control

strategies, and selective herbicide application procedures.

Copies of "Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests," General Technical Report SRS-62 by James H. Miller, can be requested via email at [pubrequest@srs.fs.usda.gov](mailto:pubrequest@srs.fs.usda.gov) or by mail to Southern Research Station, P. O. Box 2680, Asheville, NC 28802.

from article in Texas Forestry Association's *Texas Forestry* magazine, March 2004

For more information:

- <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/>

## SUDDEN OAK DEATH THREAT

On May 5, 2004, there was a conference call among the Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF), USFS R8 Deputy Regional Forester for S&PF and the Director of the Southern Research Station (SRS) related to the recent developments associated with the spread of the Sudden Oak Death (SOD) fungus to the east coast.

The sudden oak death fungus, *Phytophthora ramorum*, has been killing oaks and tanoaks in central California since 1995. It causes bleeding cankers on the stem, and eventual death of the infected trees. However, the fungus also infects foliage of a large number of ornamental and understory plants. On these hosts, the fungus causes a leaf spot and twig dieback, but not necessarily mortality. The list of primarily-foliar-symptom hosts includes camellia, rhododendron, and mountain laurel.

Lab tests in the U.S. and documented field evidence in Europe demonstrate that southern and northern red oak species in the eastern U.S. are susceptible to infection by the fungus. It is now clear that starting in 2003, SOD-infected nursery stock (primarily camellias) was shipped

from California to ornamental nurseries in all 50 states and Canada. As of early May, 2004, infected camellias have been found in nurseries in FL, GA, TN, NC, VA, LA, and TX (5 nurseries). Other states with confirmed positive plants in nurseries include CA, WA, OR, CO, NM, and MD. So far, a total of 97 facilities in 13 states have had plants that tested positive for the Sudden Oak Death fungus.

While confirmation of the disease has only been made from plants still in the nursery setting, it is almost certain that some infected plants have been sold and moved into backyards as ornamental plantings. To date, infection has NOT been found outside of the nurseries. All 13 southern states (in addition to 24 other states) are involved with the USFS in surveys of forested areas adjacent to potentially infected nurseries. Texas Forest Service Foresters are involved in this survey in parts of Texas.

The USFS Southern Region, SRS and SGSF are alarmed about the potential impact of this disease on the oak resource in the South.

by (in part) Wesley (Wes) Nettleton, Director, Forest Health Protection, USDA Forest Service, Atlanta, GA

For more information:

- <http://ceris.purdue.edu/napis/pests/sod/>
- [http://www.forestpathology.org/dis\\_sod.html](http://www.forestpathology.org/dis_sod.html)

## TIMBER THIEVES DON'T USE BMPs

Some landowners have had timber cut and removed from their property without their permission.

If you suspect timber theft on your property or notice suspicious activity in your area, call the Timber Theft Hotline at 1-800-364-3470.

Help prevent timber theft –

- Clearly mark property boundaries, preferably with fencing.
- Gate all roads into the property.
- Ask your neighbors to report suspicious activity. Let them know when

and where you are planning to have your timber cut.

- When having timber harvested, check the sale area where harvest is in progress to ensure unmarked trees are not cut.
- Know the value of your timber. Before a timber sale, clearly mark and measure all trees included in the sale.
- Join a forest landowner association to improve your knowledge of forestry issues.
- Insist on a sale contract that includes Best Management Practices.

*Continuing Education for Logging Professionals*

**2004 BMP Workshops**  
7:30 am - 3:30 pm

Aug. 20	Lufkin
Oct. 15	Lufkin

- Fee (per workshop):  
\$10 for TFA/TLC members; \$35 for non-members

- For registration, call TFA at (936) 632-8733

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**June 19** *Urban Tree Pest Workshop*, sponsored by the Texas Forest Service and the Texas Master Naturalists, 9:30 am, TFS Conroe District Office, 1328 FM 1488, Conroe. CEUs offered. Two hours in classroom, 2 hours in field. Call (936) 273-2261 for more information.

**July 22-23** *Master Tree Farmer I Short Course*, sponsored by Texas Cooperative Extension, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. A two-day encore presentation of the 2004 Master Tree Farmer held in February/March. Texas specific topics will be pinpointed and selected from the original meeting for the first day. The second day will be a tour. Contact Eric Taylor at [eric-taylor@tamu.edu](mailto:eric-taylor@tamu.edu).

**August 13-14** *21st Century Forestry Workshops: Loblolly Pine Planting*, sponsored by Texas Cooperative Extension, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Texas A&M Research and Extension Center, Overton, Texas. Designed to provide you with a basic understanding of the complex process of successfully establishing a loblolly pine plantation in Texas through artificial regeneration. You will be introduced to new site preparation techniques that may help survival, the importance of seedling care and planting, important reforestation pests, and vendor selection techniques. Contact Eric Taylor at [eric-taylor@tamu.edu](mailto:eric-taylor@tamu.edu).



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