

The hack and squirt method

The hack and squirt method is a simple method that can be used in forest management practices.

The method can be used to control any unwanted species of vegetation, wild habitat improvement where the goal is to provide forage for the livestock. This is done by opening up the canopy such that sunlight can hit the ground and allow vegetation to grow. It also helps control the invasive species.

Materials required

To carry out the hack and squirt method, all you need is a hatch/ small axe to make a cut into the tree and a spray bottle.

The chemicals used in this method include Imazapyr, Glyphosate and Triclopyr. Some of them might be restricted in some areas so you need to find out that information about which one is acceptable in your area from your extension worker.

When applying the chemicals, ensure that you have the personal protective equipment like the safety glasses, gloves, long sleeved shirts and pants.

Procedure

To carry out the hack and squirt method, a good rule of thumb is to make 1 hack for every 2 inches of diameter. Make a hack through the bark of the tree to the cambium. This ensures that the chemical is absorbed into the tree.

Make one good hack, pull the hack down to open up the slit and put the chemical into the slit.

Avoid using the hack and squirt method if the tree is located near a power line or a fence or a building or home because the

tree eventually dries and collapses.