



A controlled burn of brushland.

Brush management facts

Most brush areas are periodically burned, most often by wildfires.

Wildfires are an expensive method of managing a resource.

Controlled burning of brush is an economical way to manage this resource.

Soil of brushland may be very fertile or may have poor productive capacity.

The brushland manager must inventory his resource to develop its full productive potential.

Water yield is increased when an area is converted from brush to grass.

Properly managed brush can support three to four times as many deer as old-growth, dense brush.

Both livestock and deer are useful in controlling brush sprouts and seedlings in burned areas.

Counts of brush seedlings following burning have shown over 8,000 per acre.

Most brush species sprout after the tops are burned; some areas support more than 1,500 plants per acre.

Spraying with 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T offers good control of sprouting brush.

Controlling regrowth of brush sprouts by fire requires burning every 3 to 5 years. Use of animals to browse sprouting brush can increase the time between burns.

Grazing can be increased five-fold by burning brushy areas and reseeding them with grasses and clovers.

Brush areas protected from burning for more than 25 years may have more than 18 tons of plant material per acre, most of it highly flammable during the dry months.

Brush can be crushed in winter and burned in the spring when fire conditions are not hazardous.

During certain times of the year, usually when plant food reserves are low, brush is more susceptible to injury by burning or crushing.

Generally, brush stands grow back to their preburn density in 8 to 12 years if no management is used following the burn.

Breaking up large areas of brush by spot burning helps reduce the size of possible wildfire burns.