

## Intermediate Use Areas: Considerations and Tools



The Woods In Your Backyard Program

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND  
EXTENSION  
*Solutions in your community*

## What We Will Learn Today

- Options for converting lawns and intermediate use areas to natural areas.
- Tools and equipment considerations

## Time line for Forestry Activities

Age of Stand

←			→
0 yrs	15 yrs	50 yrs	120+ yrs
Field to Young Forest Growth	Canopy Closure	Advanced Growth	Older Growth
Tree Planting Weeding	Weeding Thinning	Commercial Thinning	Regeneration

## Your Property in the Landscape: Looking for Opportunities

- Consider habitat of surrounding properties
- Adding on to existing forest areas



## What Are The Options? Depends on Your Objectives!



## Connection to Wooded Properties!



### Range of Options to Establish Natural Areas

- Maintain early succession cover



Mow every 2-4 years



Mow once a year

### Mow every 3 years in strips Habitat for turkeys, quail, etc



### Maintain Existing Old Field Succession



Many existing old fields can be maintained by killing hardwoods that establish themselves. Provides unique habitat

### Manage Old Field Succession & Young Forests

- Control invasive species
- Clear around tree species you want to succeed.
- Low cost but requires regular maintenance



### Establish Trees



By planting



Natural regeneration



Garrett Co  
Early Successional Species Vary by Region

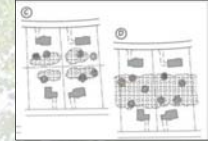


Eastern Shore

### Tree Planting Using Seedlings



### Try to Plant Drainage Areas Look at Soil Survey online



Areas with high water quality and habitat value

Create fewer areas with more natural area

### Reforestation

- Most reforestation projects use seedlings at 400 per acre
- Select the proper tree for the site
- Keep the seedlings fresh
- Seedlings should be planted in March or early April



Mechanical tree planting

### Site Preparation



Fall prior to planting:

Cut the grass to a low height if needed.

Kill competing vegetation within 3 feet of trees using herbicide or mechanical methods

Check for presence of voles and treat if needed



### Tree Planting Methods



Volunteers - Urbana High students



commercial hand planter



Mechanical tree planting

### Protecting Young Seedlings



Installing tree shelters



Deer fencing

### Tree Shelters Maintenance Source of Supply



Older shelters may harm trees. Nets prevent bird entry.






Tree shelters from older plantings can be used

### Maintaining Plantation

- Three mowings per season is ideal.
- The cover crop is important. It should be dense enough to exclude weeds but open enough to not harbor mice and voles.



The Headless Mower

### Voles are very destructive: Be proactive



Prick Mouse  
Muskrat Mouse  
Adult Mole







Vole damage on a sapling

### As trees grow and crowns close let it go "wild"




Be aware of county ordinances for ROW and weeds

### Reasons for Tree Planting

- Reforestation
- Water Quality
- Develop Wildlife Habitat
- Windbreak
- Noise Buffer
- Aesthetics



### Hedgerows - Privacy

- Long narrow forest areas between fields
- Should be at least 50' wide
- Use a combination of trees and shrubs
- Mix evergreens and deciduous



### Windbreaks

- Use evergreens
- Plant at least 4 rows deep if possible
- Stagger rows so that it fills in quicker



### Planting for water quality

- Buffers should be at least 35 feet wide for water quality.
- Need 100 wide buffer for maximum wildlife benefit.
- Whatever you can provide is a benefit and worth the effort.



### Herbicides and Weeding

- Herbicide during the first few growing season to control competing vegetation.



### Herbicide strips or circles around each tree



### Weedings

- Mowing
- Vine removal
- Invasive Species Control



Managing this young stand might involve mowing the grasses

### Invasive Species

