

April Management Recommendations

Fire Ecology

- Continue to conduct prescribed burns as needed.
- Burning during this month appears to be an effective means of reducing vigor of re-sprouting woody stems, especially on old-field lands.
- Because it is a grassy year, use ignition patterns that result in less intense burns and minimize crown scorch, e.g. spot ignition, light flanks into the wind, and use backing fire, instead of strip head fires.
- Minimize the distance burned along major highway and county road edges in one day, and mop up aggressively.
- Be aware of your smoke!!
- Burning during the growing season promotes native seed production.

Forestry

- Protect regeneration areas with new seedlings. Put off burning for 1-2 years where regeneration is needed.
- Continue timber stand improvement thinning, hardwood removal and other cultural treatments in forest stands.
- Conduct timber harvests.

Game Bird

- Supplemental feed at 2 bu/ac/yr in unburned cover to reduce predation and prepare birds for nesting .
- If changing feeding trail, establish summer feed trail.
- Focus on nest predator management as needed. (See Tall Timbers web site.)
- April is an excellent month for burning both old field and native ground cover habitats to prepare areas for summer brooding habitats.
- Burn such that burned and unburned areas exist within quail home ranges.

Land Management

- Check, freshen-up, or put in fire breaks as needed.
- Conduct post-burn mowing of targeted problem hardwood areas to encourage grasses.
- Apply Velpar® to control hardwoods after April 15.
- Make plans for herbicide control of domestic grasses.
- Conduct soil tests to determine lime and fertilizer rates for summer food plots and dove fields.
- Plant dove fields.
- Plant duck ponds.
- Begin post burn evaluations.

Vertebrate Ecology

- Monitor gopher tortoise burrows in burned areas.
- Monitor bluebird and wood duck boxes.