

REMOVING RUSSIAN OLIVE FROM YOUR PROPERTY

Are Russian Olive Trees Really Bad?

Russian olive trees can be effective windbreaks, great bird habitat, or decent privacy screens. In the dry, upland settings of the Great Plains, it performs these tasks well. However, in the Intermountain West and Southwest, it is primarily riparian in distribution, and in these settings it becomes invasive, out-competing native species and altering wildlife habitat and stream flows.

Russian olive also has other characteristics that make it undesirable: It produces 2-4-inch, strong thorns that can damage equipment, lame animals, and injure people. It uses a fair amount of water, and dense stands of the plant can greatly reduce stream flows, making less water available for agriculture or household use. The species can be invasive in irrigated agricultural fields, interfering with crop production.

Other plants can offer the benefits of Russian olive without the downside.

The problem is: how do you get rid of the Russian olives?

This packet should help summarize all the information we have available about Russian olive removal. Here we've included:

- ◆ a map of your terrain, with highlighted Russian olives
- ◆ the various removal options
- ◆ forms required for third parties to aid in removal (if desired)
- ◆ Ideas about available resources

Please call Boz Bosworth (335-7440) if you have questions about any part of the removal program.

Boulder Community Foundation
PO Box 1351
Boulder, UT 84716

Phone: 435-335-7434
Fax: 435-335-7437
E-mail: boz@bouldercommunityalliance.org

REMOVING RUSSIAN OLIVE FROM YOUR PROPERTY

General Process

- A. Chemical Treatment (May to October)
 - Small trees: basal spray (bottom 15")
 - Large trees: Frill cut (hatchet cut; apply chemical) or cut tree and spray stump
- B. Mechanical Removal
 - Weed puller (under 1 inch)
 - Cut tree, pile slash, and burn, killing roots too
 - Extract with heavy equipment
- C. Biomass Removal
 - chipper/shredder
 - cut large pieces for firewood
 - Burn slash
- D. Follow up year
 - Remove new growth (by hand or using goats or sheep)

Method	Advantages	Disadvantages
Chemical treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Most efficient and effective;◆ Quickest method for treating multiple trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Potential for herbicide spilling into waterway;◆ Safety concerns◆ Potential harm to birds and beneficial insects◆ Restricted time period for treatment
Mechanical removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ No risk of chemical contamination◆ Area is cleared for immediate replanting◆ Slash pile is immediately available for firewood	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Equipment costs◆ Risk of not removing all roots◆ Disruptive to surrounding vegetation

Boulder Community Foundation
PO Box 1351
Boulder, UT 84716

Phone: 435-335-7434
Fax: 435-335-7437
E-mail: boz@bouldercommunityalliance.org

REMOVING RUSSIAN OLIVE FROM YOUR PROPERTY

Methods of Chemical Treatment:

Choice of chemical is site-specific, based on cost, geography, proximity to water sources, and availability.

- ◆ Garlon
- ◆ Habitat
- ◆ Roundup

Procedure A: Cut tree

1. Cut tree to 3-4 inches of stump remaining above ground.
2. Paint or spray chemical onto stump.

Procedure B: Frill Cut

1. Hatchet-cut horizontal slashes around tree circumference. (Do not girdle the tree.)
2. Inject 1 cc of chemical into each wound.

Procedure C: Basal Spray

(Useful when trees intertwine fences, are tight against structures, or are in otherwise difficult-to-maneuver locations.)

1. Spray bottom 15" of trunk

All three procedures require returning to remove dead material.

REMOVING RUSSIAN OLIVE FROM YOUR PROPERTY

Replacement Planting Options

A variety of plants that are native to this area can provide the same benefits you might have had with Russian olive.

Windbreaks/Privacy Screen/Wildlife Habitat

Shrubs

- ◆ Silver leaf buffaloberry
- ◆ Four-wing saltbush
- ◆ Oak leaf sumac
- ◆ Big sage

Trees

- ◆ Willow
- ◆ Poplar
- ◆ Ash
- ◆ Gambel oak

Boulder Community Foundation
PO Box 1351
Boulder, UT 84716

Phone: 435-335-7434
Fax: 435-335-7437
E-mail: boz@bouldercommunityalliance.org

REMOVING RUSSIAN OLIVE FROM YOUR PROPERTY

Costs associated with removing Russian olive trees:

Here are the general cost items associated with initial removal and subsequent monitoring:

Chemicals

- ◆ Herbicide
- ◆ Mixing agent
- ◆ Safety equipment

Equipment

- ◆ Chain saw, hatchets
- ◆ Chippers/shredders,
- ◆ Heavy equipment

Labor

Boulder Community Foundation
PO Box 1351
Boulder, UT 84716

Phone: 435-335-7434
Fax: 435-335-7437
E-mail: boz@bouldercommunityalliance.org

REMOVING RUSSIAN OLIVE FROM YOUR PROPERTY

Possibilities for dealing with logs and slash piles:

- ◆ The pile can be burned. Please notify local fire department before burning
- ◆ The logs make great firewood. Place a notice on the town bulletin board advertising firewood.
- ◆ Slash can be chipped for mulch or bedding. Escalante sawmill?
- ◆ Branches and leaves can be harvested for essential oils. Call Eric Scott. 335-xxxx
- ◆ Pile up for an impenetrable barrier *Caution: Russian olive thorns can slash human skin and most animal hides*

Boulder Community Foundation
PO Box 1351
Boulder, UT 84716

Phone: 435-335-7434
Fax: 435-335-7437
E-mail: boz@bouldercommunityalliance.org