

Pine Plantations and Profits: Bettering Pine Businesses With Herbaceous Weed Control

For More Southeastern Forest Landowners,
Site Preparation Is Only Half the Story

Smart forest landowners know that in order to grow a healthy, profitable pine plantation, a thorough site-preparation treatment needs to be implemented before the first seedling enters the ground. This process ensures freshly planted pines don't compete with undesirable, non-cop hardwoods. And there's additional competition that can't be ignored during the first and second growing seasons: vegetation like grasses, broadleaf weeds and vines that start emerging in young pine stands.

That's why a growing number of landowners in the Southeastern U.S. are finding great value in applying herbaceous weed control treatments to newly planted pine stands using **Arsenal® herbicide Applicators Concentrate (Arsenal herbicide AC)**. By controlling herbaceous weeds, you eliminate competition for sunlight, moisture, rooting space and nutrients.

Herbaceous weed control treatments applied in the first or second year of a pine stand can dramatically accelerate pine stand development. These treatments have enabled landowners to harvest the same volume of timber as three years earlier. With a faster rotation, landowners can more quickly achieve a higher return on their timberland investment.

Another benefit of herbaceous weed control is additional growth in pine trees. One study, featured in the *Journal of Forestry*, demonstrates how **Arsenal herbicide AC** treatments increased merchantable volume.

A study near Jessup, Georgia, examined the effects of herbaceous weed control using **Arsenal herbicide AC** on the heels of a site-preparation treatment with **Chopper® herbicide** on loblolly pine. Dr. Dwight Lauer, Director of Silvics Analytic, says, "Long-term studies clearly show we should be able to double productivity by controlling woody and herbaceous vegetation."

The evidence for a combined approach of site preparation treatments followed by herbaceous weed control treatments is outstanding news. The land available to grow timber isn't getting any bigger, but herbaceous weed control enables landowners to increase timber production on their existing land.

While there's an upfront cost to using herbicide treatments, landowners will enjoy long-term benefits of improved survival, shorter rotations and higher returns on their timberland investment.



Merchantable pine volume increases range from 33% to 131%.