



ARSENAL[®]

herbicide

Mississippi Landowner
Uses **Arsenal[®] Herbicide
Applicators Concentrate**
To Maximize Timber,
Wildlife Benefits

A Living Legacy

Professional
Vegetation
Management

 **BASF**
The Chemical Company

Located in Morton, Miss.: Miles Farm is a picturesque parcel of private property consisting of 1,000 acres of mixed softwoods and hardwoods owned by the Shepherd family. The first significant pine planting on the property occurred in 1979, when James Shepherd planted about 800 seedlings per acre on 120 acres.

Several years ago — with his timber production plans in place and all his children grown — Shepherd was inspired with another goal for the property: to create a 1,000-acre hunting and wildlife preserve that his kids, grandkids and their grandkids could enjoy. In Shepherd's vision, the property would provide the ultimate mixture of business and pleasure and deliver ongoing financial returns and recreational benefits for many years to come.

“Our goal for Miles Farm is to leave behind a healthier and more productive environment that we can pass on to future generations,” Shepherd said. “We have five children and we raised them all to hunt and their children are doing the same thing. We want them to have a

place of their own where they can hunt, relax and enjoy the wildlife in a safe, comfortable surrounding.”

Seeking to maximize his wildlife benefits, Shepherd met with some local foresters to discuss ways to enhance his management approach. The consultants informed Shepherd about the important role of **Smart Herbicides[™]** as part of a comprehensive management plan. Manufactured by BASF, **Smart Herbicides** provide intelligent vegetation control by affecting enzymes found only in plants — not birds, mammals, fish, insects or humans.

To help support his forestland management efforts, Shepherd chose **Arsenal[®] herbicide Applicators Concentrate (Arsenal AC)**. **Arsenal AC** effectively frees pines from competing hardwoods and helps maximize timber production, as well as the carrying potential of wildlife habitat, by removing invasive vegetation to allow native plant communities to return. With better nutrition available, game quality improves and the number of desirable species, like whitetail deer, quail and wild turkey, increases.



Restoring Wildlife Habitat

In November 2003, Shepherd sprayed approximately 40 acres of 25-year-old pines with **Arsenal[®] herbicide Applicators Concentrate (Arsenal AC)** as part of a mid-rotation release treatment. In the spring, he followed the treatment with a prescribed fire to remove the thick litter layer. This allowed sunlight to reach the forest floor, which encouraged the growth of desirable herbaceous vegetation, such as forbs and legumes.

“In less than a year’s time, wildlife-preferred food sources came back strong,” Shepherd said. “We’re seeing a lot more deer and turkey in the pine stands we treated. Obviously, the greater food source diversity is a big attraction.”

Herbicide treatments also help improve the hunting experience by providing long, clean sightlines and enhanced visibility through the forest.

“That’s one of the first things we noticed in the pine stands that have been treated,” Shepherd said. “The forest is no longer clogged with invasive hardwood brush that impairs visibility. This increases our wildlife viewing opportunities and improves access and safety.”

Boosting Timber Returns

Shepherd also discovered that using **Arsenal AC** is not only good for wildlife habitat, but also good for timber production. By eliminating competing hardwoods, more nutrients and moisture are available to the pine trees, increasing their growth and maximizing revenues for landowners.

“We do a lot of spraying and I can tell you that it’s some of the best money you can ever spend,” Shepherd said. “We’re on a rotational

program where we cut a certain amount of timber each year. I told my kids that if they follow proper management practices and continue to do what we’re doing, they’d be able to reap even better returns 20 to 30 years from now.”

In addition to maximizing timber production, Shepherd’s proactive management approach is enabling him to create a unique and lasting wildlife paradise that can be passed on to future generations. By removing hardwood brush, he is actually restoring the land to its natural condition. Clearly, proper forestland management produces more benefits than simply greater profits. For James Shepherd, it allows him to create a lasting legacy.

For more information on how **Arsenal AC** can help improve your forestland, call **1-800-545-9525**, or visit **www.vmanswers.com**.

Always read and follow label directions.

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