How to Make a Kill stick

Basal Bark Treatment for Killing Small Trees

**ADDITIONAL TIPS:**

- One of the ways the herbicide works is by girdling the cambial tissue of the stem. This is why it is both important to make a complete band around the tree, and to apply enough herbicide mixture to soak through the bark into the tissue.

- It is important that herbicide is applied below the bottom-most branch of the tree. If the tree has multiple stems emerging from the ground, treat all of the stems.

- The bark of the tree must be dry to allow the oil to penetrate. Treatment should not occur if rain is forecast within 24 hours.

- Herbicide can be applied any time of year— including winter. When applying in the dormant season, trees may green up for a week or two in the spring but then should die.

- When the wick becomes ragged, it can be twisted out, flipped around, and re-used.

For More information contact:
Eastern Nebraska Program Office
1228 L St., P.O. Box 438
Aurora, NE 68818
402.694.4191
**Tools:** PVC cement, PVC cleaner/primer, tape measure, hack saw, scissors, and oil-based floor finishing applicator refill.

Cut the applicator cloth into thirds, roll one of them tightly and twist into the end of the stick (2b). Leave 1/2”-3/4” showing.

**Supplies:**

1” x 5’ PVC SC 40 (1a & 1b)

6” x 3/4” PVC SC 40-cut into 4” and 2” lengths (2a & 2b)

1” ball valve glue type (3)

1” female glue adapter to 1” female thread (4)

3/4 “ female glue to 1”male thread (5)

3/4 “ 45 degree elbow (6)

1” cap (7)

**Assembly:** Cement the pieces of PVC together (except the threaded union between 4 & 5) as shown below.

Unscrew the threaded end of pieces 4 & 5, open the valve and fill with herbicide mixture. Once filled, close valve and adjust as needed to keep cloth saturated.

**Herbicide mixture:**

-1 pt. Remedy Ultra a.i. 60.45% triclopyr-ester

-3 pt. JLB oil (Basal Bark treatment oil) RTU

-.5 oz. of Bas-oil dye per gal of mix

Apply the herbicide generously to create a wet band around the base of the tree. The width of the band should equal the circumference of the tree.

With small trees (<1” diam.) application to one side may be enough for the herbicide to soak around the entire trunk.

Basal bark treatment works on most deciduous trees young enough to have thin smooth bark, including buckthorn, willow, dogwood, sumac, cottonwood, mulberry, ash, Siberian elm, Russian olive, etc.

For more detailed instructions and pictures go to [www.prairienebraska.org](http://www.prairienebraska.org) under downloadable guides.

This information is not meant to replace herbicide labels and recommendations. Always read and follow label directions.