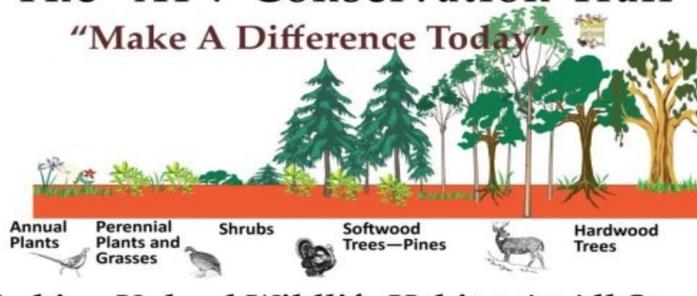


# The "ATV Conservation Trail™"

"Make A Difference Today"



Working Upland Wildlife Habitat At All Stages

## Spraying With Your ATV - Handout 2

One of the great uses for your ATV is spraying herbicides. Many try it and have varying results, even failure. Others struggle to figure out why they use so much chemical per acre. Here are a few hints to get the job done right.

### Select a good sprayer

- Spend a little extra and get a unit that will last, look for one that uses generic parts (replaceable at farm supply stores).
- It must have an adjustable pressure gauge.
- Choose a sprayer with a good handgun or buy a good one and add it to the unit.
- Choose a sprayer size appropriate for your projects. As a rule, it will take 10-gallons of chemical mixed with water to cover an acre - but remember always read the label. For example, glyphosate mixed at about 5 ounces per gallon can be used to remove grasses and weeds from a food plot. For shrubby oaks use up to 8 ounces per gallon of water.



The 25 gallon version shown here, allows us to spray two (2) acres easily and does not upset the center of gravity of the ATV. Mount the sprayer on the rear rack of the ATV. Use two (2) tie-down straps to keep the unit steady and in place. Placing a towel under the sprayer unit will keep it from scratching the racks. Rubber strips also work well.



Most sprayers now have the two-wire plug in making it very fast to hook power to the pump. The version pictured has a direct hookup to the battery.

### Setting the pressure

- Turn the handle on top of the gauge to adjust the sprayer pressure. This may take some experimenting. Setting the pressure at 40 PSI on the model shown prior to turning on the booms gives a 20 pound pressure when the booms are on.
- If using just the handgun, you may choose to set the pressure higher (50 or 60 PSI) to be able to reach farther.



### Operation:

- Double check that all is secure and the connections are good.
- Always check the operation of the sprayer with plain water first to make sure everything is working right and all spray nozzles work (spiders sometimes make nests in the nozzles).
- Speed—Some ATV sprayer manufacturers suggest a speed of 4 to 5 mph but it may be closer to 6 or 7 depending on your pressure and the sprayer nozzle sizes so it is important to calibrate the sprayer to ensure proper application. For more information on calibrating a sprayer go to: <http://www.youtube.com/user/MOlandowner>
- When spraying in the field, assure proper coverage by overlapping approximately one-foot on each pass.

### Finishing:

- When finished, flush the sprayer and boom with water, making sure to do this in a safe area.
- If you are done for the season, to protect it from winter freezes, put about 2 gallons of RV antifreeze in the tank and pump it through until the pink liquid comes out of the nozzles.
- Take the handgun off and drain it completely before storing and tape up the end of the hose.
- You can duct tape plastic bags over the nozzles to keep out spiders and other critters.
- If you have a folding version like the one pictured, spray the hinges with WD-40.

