







To Girdle or to Fell-That is the Question?

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There are some situations in our woodlot or sugarbush when you might want to prevent a tree from competing with its neighbors for sunlight, but you don't want to fell the tree. Killing the competing tree is often done by girdling, but there are several factors to consider.

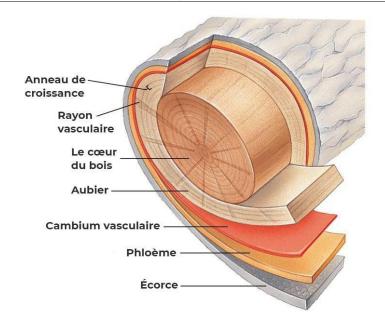
Girdling trees is the process where you disrupt the living connection between the roots and the leaves, usually by cutting or chopping away the outer bark and the inner bark or cambium. Technically you sever the phloem, or the vascular tissue, that carries the products of photosynthesis from the leaves to the roots. Therefore, girdling starves the roots of the tree and the tree will die over a year or more of time. In some situations girdling trees can be effective and useful, while in other situations, one would be better off felling the same trees. The costs and benefits of girdling and felling should be weighed out on a tree-by-tree basis. Here I provide some tools to help you decide which method of killing trees would work best for your particular situation.

Whether you girdle or fell, you will want to take all reasonable safety precautions and follow the label specifications if you use herbicides.

There are some situations when it may be advantageous to girdle. First, you may want to kill a large tree that is shadowing a group of small trees. Often this large tree is a former pasture or field tree with a large spreading crown. It has no merchantable value, but does have value as a large woody structure if you could leave it standing but reduce its shade impact on the younger surrounding stems. Felling the tree would likely damage many of the smaller stems. In this case, girdling will retain the tree for its wildlife value and prevent or reduce the damage to smaller stems when the large tree finally does come down. A second situation might be if the stand is very dense and the crowns are interlocking. Here, trying to fell would be complicated by the support the retained stems give to the cut stems. A felling cut would result in a "hung tree" requiring great work and added risk to bring it to the ground. Finally, you may want to leave some trees as dead stems for use by birds, such as wood peckers or birds that require cavities for nesting. Girdling can reduce the competition of the girdled tree with living trees and retain some of its wildlife potential. Girdling can be accomplished with an axe, a chainsaw, a flame torch, and



Triple girdle with a chain saw. Note: the bark has died away.









Comment l'abolir?

• Modifier les devis techniques d'entretien



#2: Diversifier les plantations..













































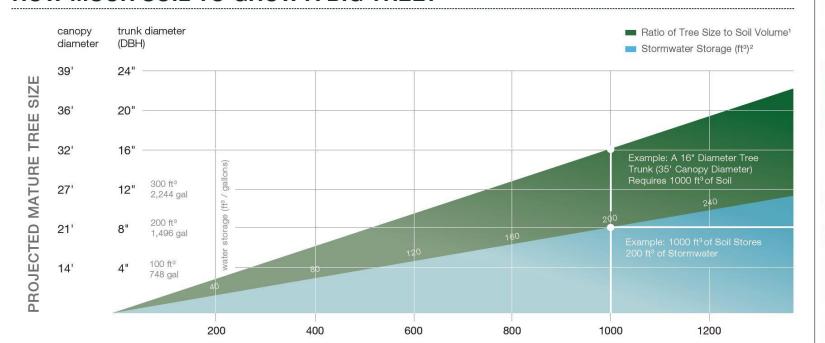








HOW MUCH SOIL TO GROW A BIG TREE?









Cible actuelle = 10 m³/arbre

NE PAS INSTALLER DE PAILLIS SUR UNE DISTANCE DE 150 mm AU POURTOUR DU TRONC DE L'ARBRE

