



October 2025

12 Months of Wildlife Management

From Joe Roy, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist



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Crisp, frosty mornings and vibrant foliage are finally upon us. For many of us who manage our properties for wildlife, October is a favorite time of year. October marks the month that we will begin to head afield for many hunting opportunities. Fall is also a great time to enjoy the seasonal changes in wildlife outside of the consumptive users, as many species are rapidly changing their behaviors to prepare for winter. In October, we can still find plenty to keep ourselves busy. Hopefully, by now your wood piles are stacked and you are fully prepared for the winter weather, which may arrive as early as this month. With your winter to-do list done, or as complete as it will ever be, getting out on your woodlot to keep up your management activities ahead of winter will be very fulfilling!

Fall Seeding

Growing from seeds takes time, but it gives you the best return on your investment. We have discussed seedbed prep in prior articles, and now is the time to get the seed on the ground for many native species planting. Now that you have bare soil, you will want to lightly agitate that soil. Depending on the scale of your project,

that could be with a hand rake, a pull-behind cultipacker, or a chunk of chain-link fence with weights on it dragged behind an ATV. After agitating the area, you will want to broadcast the seeds over the seedbed at a rate listed on the package and then agitate the seeded area to get good seed-to-soil contact.

Brush Piles



Brush piles are great resources for a variety of species of wildlife. They host immense numbers of insects and invertebrates, as well as a multitude of small mammals and songbirds. These resources provide great cover and protection for wildlife and are important to incorporate into our

management. Ahead of the winter weather, this is a great time to create brush piles on your property. Stacking wood in a Lincoln Log type manner and then covering it with brush is a great way to spend some time in the woods. After completing the work, place a trail camera pointed at the brush pile to learn what is using them in your woodlot.

Field and Crop Management



If you have fields on your property that have been planted with crops or as food plots, leaving sections of these to go unharvested into the winter can be a great way to provide good food and cover going into the winter months. If you are leaving some sections of fields, consider leaving the areas adjacent to your abutting forest. This helps increase the value of the important edge habitat. These areas can be used extensively by wildlife as other natural resources decrease during the winter months.

producing trees or plants or may be areas that you want to modify to prepare for the next growing season.



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This newsletter article was originally written for our partner Small Woodland Owners of Maine.

Timber Stant Improvement



Some folks are hesitant to manage their woodlots in October, with the hunting season being upon us. But you can do things now to prepare yourself for management in the winter or at a later date. While you are in your woodlot, you can mark trees or areas that you want to manage in the wintertime. These may be areas that have good mast (nuts, seeds, and fruits)