WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT CALENDAR

JANUARY - FEBRUARY

- Conduct prescribed burning to improve native vegetation, reduce fuel loads, and prepare growing-season habitat.
- Prepare and maintain firebreaks for upcoming prescribed burns.
- Plant trees and shrubs to enhance wildlife cover, travel corridors, and mast production.
- Remove invasive species, especially Chinese privet and other non-native woody vegetation.
- Conduct forest stand improvement (FSI), including selective cutting to favor crop trees and open the forest canopy, hinge cutting, and cut stump herbicide treatment.
- Trap feral hogs.
- Perform winter disking (by mid-February) in designated areas to promote beneficial native forbs and brood habitat.
- Soil test food plots and develop fertilizer and lime plan for spring planting.
- Frost seed clover into existing food plots if needed.
- Check, repair, and clean wood duck nest boxes before the nesting season begins.
- If time and resources allow, conduct trail camera surveys to evaluate post-season deer age structure, buck survival, and doe recruitment.
- Locate and protect potential turkey nesting and brood-rearing areas by minimizing disturbance and planning invasive plant control before nesting begins.
- Plan spring warm-season food plots and order seed, fertilizer, and herbicides.
- Don't disk or otherwise cultivate the soil after February because it will cause coffeeweed, pigweed, morning glory, sericea lespedeza, Johnsongrass, Bermudagrass, etc. to germinate.

MARCH - APRIL

- Conduct prescribed burns where appropriate to control hardwood encroachment, improve native groundcover, and enhance deer and turkey brood habitat.
- Burn old fields as a first step before herbicide treatment of warm-season pasture grasses such as Bahia and Bermuda.
- Use herbicide to control cool-season weeds and prepare sites for native warm-season grass establishment.
- Plant native grasses and forbs once site preparation and timing are appropriate (2-inch soil temperature is consistently 60-65F and risk of frost has passed).
- Finish planting trees and shrubs.
- Plant warm-season food plots in South Georgia when soil temperatures are suitable.
- Amend food plot soils according to soil test recommendations, including lime and fertilizer needs.
- Frost seed clover into existing food plots if needed, especially in early March before consistent warm weather.
- Spray annual ryegrass and cereal grains to eliminate them from clover plots with a grass-selective herbicide.
- Mow clover to reduce competition and encourage spreading.
- Trap feral hogs.
- Conduct predator trapping.
- Switch to protein feed if supplementally feeding deer.
- Monitor turkey nesting activity and avoid unnecessary disturbance in nesting and brood-rearing areas.
- Scout for invasive plants such as privet, autumn olive, cogongrass, sericea lespedeza, and Japanese climbing fern, and treat with herbicide while actively growing.
- Maintain firebreaks, roads, gates, culverts, and access lanes before summer growth becomes heavy.
- Conduct timber harvests to allow for 30-50% open canopy.
- Stop mowing old fields until after August 1 to prevent destroying turkey nests.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT CALENDAR

MAY - JUNE

- Conduct growing season burns, where allowed for better control of hardwood sprouts, be particularly mindful of environmental conditions and fire safety.
- Plant warm-season food plots in North Georgia (jointvetch, cowpeas, soybeans).
- Control invasive plants like Bahia, Bermuda, fescue, sweetgum, autumn olive, and other invasives.
- Conduct timber harvests to allow for 30-50% open canopy.
- Hack-and-Squirt to kill undesirable trees to release crop trees and to open up the forest canopy.
- Conduct predator trapping.
- Begin planting dove fields.

JULY - AUGUST

- Conduct post-burn evaluations of previous burns to determine amount of hardwood control.
- Conduct growing season burns, where allowed for better control of hardwood sprouts, be particularly mindful of environmental conditions and fire safety.
- Control invasive plants like Bahia, Bermuda, fescue, sweetgum, autumn olive, and other invasives.
- Conduct predator trapping.
- Road daylighting and firebreak maintenance.
- Hack-and-Squirt to kill undesirable trees to release crop trees and to open the forest canopy.
- Mow and prep for cool season food plots, burn strips in dove fields.
- In late August, begin 7-day pre-baiting period and 14-day baited camera survey.

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

- Finish herbicide treatments on hardwoods. Spray sericea lespedeza while it is blooming with metsulfuron-methyl.
- Amend food plot soils according to soil test recommendations, including lime and fertilizer needs.
- Plant cool season food plots after Labor Day (North Georgia).
- Plant cool season food plots in October (South Georgia).
- Bowhunter observation data collection.
- Deer harvest data collection.
- Switch to whole kernel corn if supplementally feeding deer.
- Conduct month long unbaited (passive) camera survey in September.
- Plan for the anterless-only firearm deer season in early October.
- Mow or harvest dove fields for hunting and plant late-season dove fields.
- Conduct growing season burns in October, where allowed to increase habitat diversity.
- Begin planting container-grown trees in October.

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

- Deer harvest data collection.
- Begin planting bare-root trees in mid-November.
- Conduct rotational winter disking of a portion of old fields (30-50%) to stimulate ragweed, partridge pea, beggarweeds, croton, and other high-quality forbs.

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION