

A ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ABOUT HERBICIDE ALTERNATIVES. David G. Borneman, Lisa A. Brush, Roger C. Anderson, Mary Blackmore, Ray W. Newman, John T. Walkowiak; Manager, Natural Area Preservation Division, City of Ann Arbor, 1831 Traver Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105; Executive Director, The Stewardship Network, 416 Longshore Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48105; Professor, Illinois State University, Campus Box 4120, Normal, IL 61790; Researcher, Northwest Illinois Audubon Society, 9024 W. Grove Road, Forrester, IL 61030; Forest Plant Ecologist, Chippewa National Forest, Cass Lake, MN 56633; Forestry Bureau Chief, Iowa Department of Natural Resources - Forestry, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319

What's the best way to control invasive species in natural areas? For a growing number of land managers, the answer frequently involves the use of herbicides, as demonstrated by a large number of talks at this symposium. But before you reach for the herbicide bottle, have you fully considered what other alternatives might be available? In this round-table discussion, we'll hear about several other strategies being employed by land managers across the Midwest. These include prescribed fire, grazing, mechanical control, manipulating inorganic soil nutrients, mycorrhizae, people power, and a variety of other "minimally toxic weed control methods." The session will begin with each speaker spending a few minutes reporting on their own experiences with some of these alternative methods. Following that, we'll have a facilitated round-table discussion about the pros and cons of these and other alternatives, the importance of timing, and how any of these strategies can be made more effective in combination with other methods. We'll consider how these strategies may or may not fit into your comprehensive strategy to control invasive species in your natural areas, whether or not you choose to complement them with herbicides.