



# Habitat Mgmt.

## Technical Guidance Sheet

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### Disking

#### **Purpose**

Disking is used to maintain natural vegetation in desirable habitat stages. Disking maintains some open area on the ground surface which is beneficial to ground dwelling wildlife. Disking incorporates plant material into the soil and is an alternative to prescribed burning.

#### **Disking Methods**

Light disking is used to promote herbaceous cover for brood habitat. Light disking should expose soil on about one half of the ground. Heavier disking is used to control tree saplings.

#### **Disking Rotation**

Disking should be conducted once every two years to maintain suitable habitat. Disk one half of each habitat area or border each year and disk the other half the next year. Disk the entire width of field borders in individual blocks to avoid leaving narrow strips of cover. Begin disking the fall or late winter following habitat establishment.

#### **Disking Dates**

Disking in late winter just prior to spring green-up maximizes winter cover and is the method used to maintain habitat throughout most of the year. Disking in October or November promotes the growth of high quality brood cover by encouraging annual plants such as ragweed and partridge pea.

Fall: October 1 - January 1, Optimum Date November 1.

Late Winter: February 1 – March 15, Optimum Date March 1.

Herbicides may be recommended on individual sites to help control tree saplings or aggressive exotic grasses.



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