

AFTERCARE GUIDE

HOW TO KEEP YOUR LAND CLEARED.

We cleared it. This guide covers what to expect, what to do the first week, and how to stay ahead of regrowth for the first year.

CLEARING IS STEP ONE

WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING AT.

Forestry mulching is the first step in taking back an overgrown area, not the only step. A freshly mulched property looks rough for a few weeks. That is normal. Here is what each part of it is.

**RIGHT AFTER**

Rough, brown and covered in mulch.

**ILLUSTRATION**

What this slope can look like once grass fills in. AI-edited from the photo at left, not a later photo.

01 THE MULCH LAYER

Everything we cut was ground up and left in place. That layer covers the soil, holds moisture and slows regrowth while it breaks down. It is thicker where the brush was thickest.

02 STUBS AND ROOTS

Brush and small trees are ground down at or near the surface, not dug out, so you may see short stubs and roots for a while. Once those plants die off, they shrink down into the soil and break down like everything else. Over time you stop seeing them stick out. Stump grinding and root removal are separate work outside what we do.

03 TRACK MARKS

Our machines run on tracks. Where they turned or crossed soft ground you may see marks. Light marks usually settle with rain and time. If one bothers you, text us a photo.

04 THINGS THE BRUSH WAS HIDING

Clearing opens up what was buried: old fence wire, trash, rocks, holes and ditches. Walk it before you put a mower or a kid on it.

YOUR FIRST WEEK

DO THESE BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE.

Ten minutes on foot before the first mow can save a mower deck. Treat the cleared area like a job site until you know it.

01**WALK IT FIRST**

Look for stumps, rocks, wire and holes. Flag anything a mower blade would find the hard way later.

02**BOOTS AND LONG PANTS**

Freshly cut stumps can be sharp. Treat the area like a job site for the first few weeks.

03**WATCH FOR POISON IVY**

If poison ivy was in the brush, its oil stays on the chips and stems. Wear gloves and long sleeves when you handle the mulch, and never burn it.

04**HOLD OFF ON MOWING AND SPRAYING**

Fresh mulch is fluffy and gets caught up in mower blades, and spray needs leaves to land on. Give the regrowth a few weeks first. See the regrowth section.

05**SEED NOW IF YOU WANT GRASS**

Right after clearing is the window. See the grass plan below.

06**CHECK IT AGAINST THE PLAN**

Trees and areas we agreed to keep should still be there. If something does not match what we agreed on, text us a photo.

WHAT NOT TO DO.**DON'T BURN IT**

There is no need, and burning anything with poison ivy in it is dangerous.

**DON'T HAUL THE MULCH OFF**

It is covering the soil and slowing regrowth while it breaks down.

**DON'T MOW TOO SOON**

Fresh mulch is fluffy and catches in blades. Wait for 5 to 6 inches of regrowth.

**DON'T WAIT A FULL SEASON**

Regrowth is easy to knock down early and hard to fix late.

PICK YOUR FINISH

DECIDE WHAT THIS GROUND BECOMES.

The plan for the next season depends on what you want the area to be. Most properties land in one of these three.

OUR STANDARD RECOMMENDATION

GRASS YOU CAN MOW

- 1** Spread grass seed right after clearing and water it in.
 - 2** Keep it watered for the first 2 to 4 weeks so grass roots before the regrowth does.
 - 3** First mow once it is 5 to 6 inches tall, deck on its highest setting. Grass roots grow through the mulch, help break it down and crowd out new seedlings.
- ✓ Thick piles of chips are not a seedbed. Rake them thin, seed where soil shows through, or have us power rake it.
 - ✓ Around Cincinnati, late summer into early fall is the best time to seed. Spring works but is harder because spring weeds compete with new grass.
 - ✓ Seeded grass? Use a weed killer, not a weed and grass killer, so you do not kill the new grass.
 - ✓ Want a finished lawn? Plan on grading, topsoil or straw from a landscaper.

LOWEST EFFORT

NATURAL WOODS OR OPEN GROUND

Leave the mulch to break down on its own. Walk the area a few times each growing season and cut, pull or treat sprouts before they get woody.

- ✓ Mark the trees and plants you want to keep so they do not get cut by mistake.
- ✓ Spring and fall are the easiest times to spot honeysuckle coming back.

RATHER HAVE IT DONE FOR YOU? Power raking, seed and fertilize, and the treatment program are on the next page.

WANT IT DONE FOR YOU?

WE CAN GET THE GRASS STARTED.

If you would rather not seed it yourself, there are two ways we can help.

BRUSHWORKS SERVICE

POWER RAKING

We power rake the mulch into the soil. That helps the mulch break down faster and leaves a soft seedbed for grass seed.

It needs a healthy amount of topsoil to work, so ask us whether your ground is a fit.

ASK US: (513) 790-4150 →

**THROUGH TRUGREEN, SET UP BY
BRUSHWORKS**

SEED AND FERTILIZE

Want grass going right away? TruGreen offers a seed and fertilize service, and we can help organize it with them.

CALL OR TEXT (513) 790-4150 →

KEEP THE REGROWTH DOWN**COORDINATED BY BRUSHWORKS**

HAND IT OFF: POST-CLEARING TREATMENT

A 3-treatment program aimed at honeysuckle, invasive brush and woody regrowth on the ground we cleared. We confirm the area and access, then TruGreen applies the treatments on a schedule.

- ✓ Built to reduce regrowth pressure. It does not promise permanent eradication.
- ✓ Best on areas that spray equipment can reach.

**SCAN TO SIGN UP**

REGROWTH

LET IT COME BACK A LITTLE. THEN KNOCK IT DOWN.

Honeysuckle and other woody brush resprout from roots left in the ground, and seeds that sat in the shade for years now get sunlight. The first growing season after clearing is when you will see it. Green sprouts do not mean the job failed. It means the roots are still alive.

That first regrowth actually helps you. As it comes back it wraps around the mulch and pulls it down to the surface, so the ground is not as fluffy and the chips stop getting caught up in mower blades. It also gives spray something to latch onto.



WAIT FOR 5 TO 6 INCHES

Let regrowth come back at least 5 to 6 inches before the first mow. Then run the mower deck at its highest setting.

WALK IT BEFORE THE FIRST MOW

Flag stubs, rocks and hidden wire before you put a deck over it. Rough ground eats blades.

THEN MOW REGULARLY

After that first pass, keep mowing through the growing season. Every cut takes energy out of the roots.

SPOT IT IN SPRING AND FALL

Bush honeysuckle leaves out before most native plants in spring and holds its leaves late into fall. Those are the easiest times to find it.

HOW LONG DOES THE MULCH LAST?

It breaks down over years, not weeks. Thin layers go faster than thick piles, and moisture and grass growing through it both speed it up. You do not need to rake it up or haul it off. It is protecting the soil while it breaks down.

Watch our 18-month mulch and grass seed experiments: youtube.com/@Brushworksc

TREATING IT YOURSELF

SPRAY WHEN THE LEAVES COME BACK.

Spraying bare mulch does not do much. Wait until you see leaves coming back and sprouts coming up. Then the spray has something to latch onto and can kill the plant.

01 WAIT FOR GREEN

Once the regrowth is leafing out and sprouting, spray it. Too early and there is nothing for the spray to land on.

02 ONLY FOR THE BAD SPOTS

BAD HONEYSUCKLE: PAINT ON TORDON

Where honeysuckle keeps coming back hard, we recommend Tordon RTU. Do not spray it. Cut the honeysuckle and paint Tordon onto the fresh cut stump. It soaks down into the plant and kills it at the root.

Careful: Keep it away from trees and shrubs you want to keep. It can move through the soil and roots, and the label limits where you can use it and what you can plant after. Read the whole label first.

03 WEED KILLER OR WEED AND GRASS KILLER

Pick by area. Where you want grass, use a weed killer that leaves grass alone. Where you want everything gone, use a weed and grass killer, like a 3-month or 6-month product. It kills everything it touches, and once it wears off you can seed grass there.

Always read and follow the product label, and keep spray off trees and plants you want to keep. Rather not handle chemicals? Our TruGreen program does it for you.

CHECK SLOPES AFTER THE FIRST HARD RAINS.

Walk slopes, banks and low spots after the first few big storms. Mulch helps cover the soil, but it is not an erosion-control system. Seed or straw bare spots. If you see water cutting channels, call us or a landscaper before it gets worse.

SEASON BY SEASON

YOUR FIRST YEAR AFTER CLEARING.

Check them off as you go. Keep this page on the fridge or in the garage.

STEP 1

FIRST WEEK

- ☐ Walk the area and flag stubs, rocks and wire
- ☐ Seed and water, or have us set up power raking or seeding
- ☐ Hold off on mowing and spraying

STEP 2

WEEKS 2 TO 4

- ☐ Keep new seed watered
- ☐ Stay off soft ground after rain
- ☐ Watch for the first sprouts

STEP 3

**FIRST
GROWING
SEASON**

- ☐ First mow at 5 to 6 inches, deck on its highest setting
- ☐ Spray once the regrowth leafs out
- ☐ Mow regularly and check slopes after hard rains

STEP 4

FALL

- ☐ Walk it while honeysuckle still has leaves
- ☐ Note where regrowth is coming back
- ☐ Decide on treatment or a maintenance pass

STEP 5

NEXT SPRING

- ☐ Honeysuckle leafs out first: spray or paint it then
- ☐ Reseed thin spots
- ☐ Keep mowing

NOTES FOR YOUR PROPERTY

FAQ

AFTERCARE QUESTIONS.

WILL THE BRUSH GROW BACK?

Some of it will try. Roots left in the ground resprout and buried seeds get sunlight. Mowing, seeding grass or the treatment program keeps it from taking over again.

WHEN CAN I MOW OVER THE MULCH?

Not right away. Let regrowth come back at least 5 to 6 inches first. It wraps around the mulch and pulls it down so it is not fluffy and getting caught in the blades. Then mow with the deck at its highest setting.

WHEN SHOULD I SPRAY?

Once you see leaves coming back and sprouts coming up. The spray needs leaves to latch onto. For bad honeysuckle, cut it and paint Tordon RTU onto the fresh stump instead of spraying.

WHEN SHOULD I SEED?

Right after clearing if the timing works. Around Cincinnati, late summer into early fall is the best window for grass seed. Spring works but is harder because spring weeds compete with new grass. Keep it watered for the first 2 to 4 weeks. If you used a weed and grass killer, wait until it wears off.

CAN YOU SEED IT FOR ME?

Yes. We can power rake the mulch into the soil, which speeds up breakdown and leaves a soft seedbed. It needs a healthy amount of topsoil to work. TruGreen also offers seed and fertilize, and we can help set that up.

DO I NEED TO REMOVE THE MULCH?

No. Leave it. It covers the soil and slows regrowth while it breaks down. Rake out thick piles only where you want to seed.

WHAT ABOUT THE STUMPS?

We grind brush and small trees down at or near the surface, not below ground. Stubs and roots that stick up for a while shrink down into the soil once the plants die off, then break down like the mulch. Digging out roots or grinding stumps below ground is separate work.

DO I HAVE TO SIGN UP FOR THE TREATMENT PROGRAM?

No. It is optional. It is there if you want help keeping regrowth down without doing it yourself.

WHEN TO CALL US**SOMETHING LOOKS OFF**

If the work does not match what we agreed on, text us a photo and we will look at it.

[TEXT 513-790-4150 →](#)**REGROWTH GOT AHEAD OF YOU**

Ask about a maintenance pass or the treatment program before it turns into brush again.

[TREATMENT PROGRAM →](#)**READY FOR THE NEXT AREA**

Fence lines, trails, the back slope you skipped: send it over.

[GET A FREE QUOTE →](#)**HAPPY WITH THE WORK?**

A Google review helps a local crew more than you would think.

[REVIEW US ON GOOGLE →](#)



WE ARE A TEXT AWAY.

Something look off? Regrowth getting ahead of you? Ready for the next area? Call, text or email and we will get back to you.

CALL OR TEXT

(513) 790-4150

EMAIL

team@brushworkscsco.com

THIS GUIDE ONLINE

brushworkscsco.com/aftercare



AFTERCARE GUIDE



TREATMENT SIGNUP



REVIEW US ON GOOGLE