

## Winter Woodlot Activities

**Grapevine control** is a great option for wintertime. The best way to control grapevine is to cut it around waist high and let it sway in the wind, this will allow you to easily see where you have been. If no timber harvests are planned in the area, then there is no need for herbicide usage because the shade from the canopy will keep the new growth at bay. Another benefit to that height, is that it is the perfect browse height for deer, which love the tender new growth.

**Boundary marking** is always easier in the winter. With the leaves down throughout most of the forest, your line of sight is much greater making it easier to see your start and end points, as well as any obstacles in your way. You can also see what you have done much better.

**Woody Species inventory** can be done quite easily in the winter if you are familiar with the common species in your area. There are ID guides available to help get you started, as well as a happy to help staff at Vinton SWCD. The benefit to winter inventory is the lack of leaf cover, which improves your ability to see all of the tree, or if you're doing point or plot sampling, you can see the entire plot.

**Invasive species location** can be a breeze in late fall/early winter or again in late winter/ early spring. Since most of our invasive plant species came from Eurasia and have a different photoperiod they tend to leaf out sooner and stay on later than most of our native plants. During these times, as a general rule, most of the plants with leaves are non-native or invasive like Tree of Heaven, Autumn Olive, Honeysuckle, and Privet. Once found, they can be flagged, painted, or marked on a map to be treated during the growing season. This tactic can also help you locate old home sites that have vanished in time, just look for the Daffodils, Snow Drops, and Tulips to see where old settlers planted their traditional plants from the old country.

**Frost seeding** is an economical method of improving pasture and hay fields by broadcasting the seed on frozen ground. As the ground freezes and thaws, it opens and closes allowing the seed to be incorporated into the soil, as well as encouraging seed stratification. This prepares the seed for germination when the weather warms and moisture increases.