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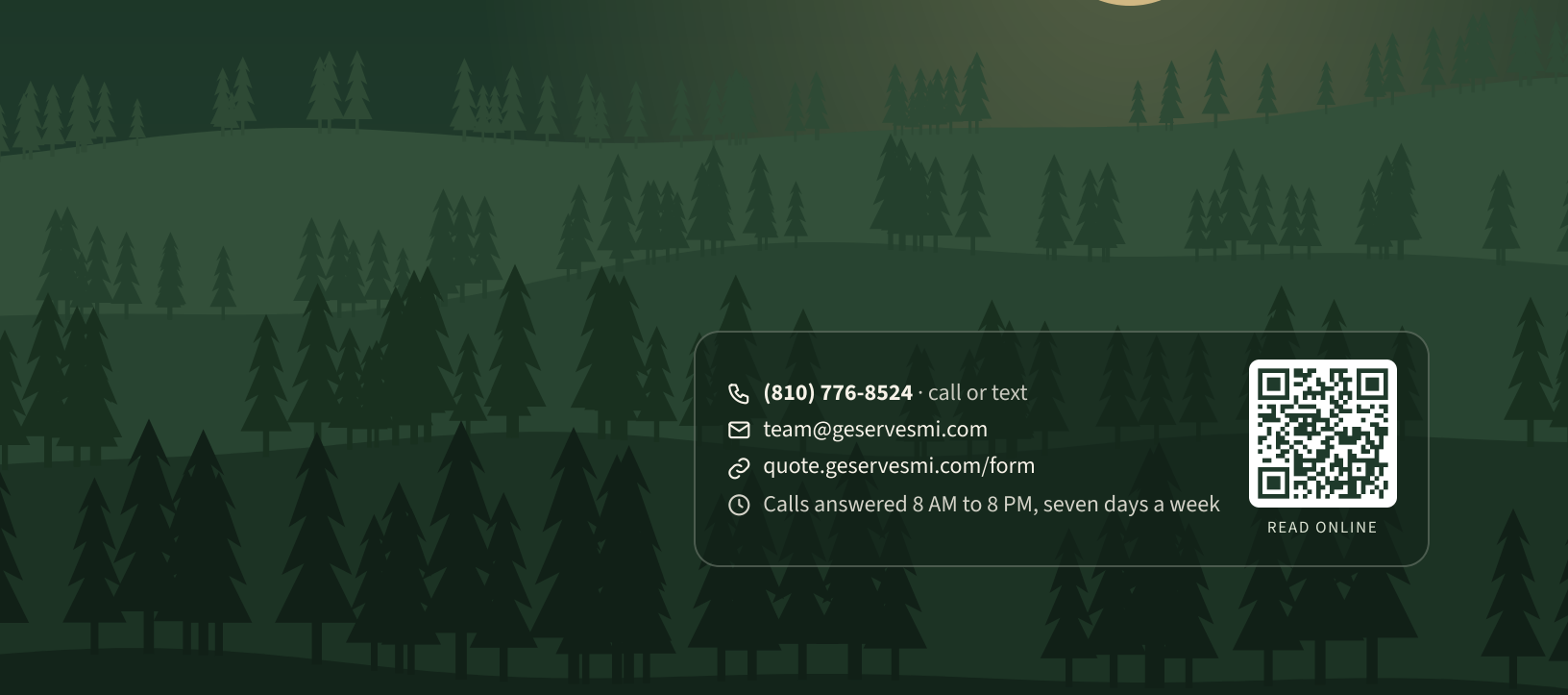
2026 EDITION · FREE GUIDE

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN · OAKLAND COUNTY & BEYOND

The Michigan Landowner's Guide

to Land Clearing & Forestry Mulching

How clearing jobs get quoted, what we check before work starts, the best months to clear, and what to expect on clearing day.



(810) 776-8524 · call or text

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Calls answered 8 AM to 8 PM, seven days a week

READ ONLINE

Getting a quote · What we check · Seasonal calendar · Printable checklist

WELCOME

What to know before anyone clears your land

This guide is for Southeast Michigan owners clearing brush, saplings and small trees, from a buckthorn backyard to a hunting parcel. It covers what forestry mulching does and doesn't do, what shapes a quote and how to get an accurate one in writing, what we check before work starts, when to schedule, and the questions landowners ask us most.

Rules and dates cite published sources, listed on page 16. Timing based on ground conditions comes from field experience. This is general information and isn't legal advice.

✓ THE SHORT WAY TO A QUOTE

To start, all we need is your address and a photo or two. We look at the property, flag anything that needs extra care (page 8), and put the whole job in writing. Every form and text gets a reply within one business day.

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The numbers that matter

6 to 8 in.	A typical stem limit for many mulching setups; bigger trees are felled first or worked around, so send a photo of your biggest trees (p. 3)
Nov to mid-Feb	The best clearing window: firm or frozen ground, dormant oaks, no nesting birds (p. 9)
Apr 15 to Jul 15	Oak wilt season, when oaks shouldn't be wounded (p. 8)
Apr 15 to Aug 15	Nesting season for birds in trees and brush (p. 9)
Oct 1 to Jan 1	The span of Michigan's deer seasons: archery, the Nov 15 to 30 firearm season and December hunts; plan hunting-land work around them (p. 9)
2 years	Most buckthorn seed left in the soil sprouts within this time, so plan follow-up (p. 12)

1 THE BASICS

Forestry mulching vs. traditional clearing

Forestry mulching grinds trees and brush into a mulch layer right where they stood. Traditional clearing removes vegetation, often roots and all, and then has to deal with the debris.

How a forestry mulcher works

A mulching head (a spinning drum or disc lined with steel teeth) mounts on a tracked carrier such as a compact track loader and grinds brush and small trees in place. Extension foresters describe mulching heads on small or large equipment that "push down and mulch stems up to 6 to 8 inches in size and grind out a wide range of stump sizes."[1]

Drum heads tend to make finer mulch and grind stumps close to the ground; disc heads work faster but leave coarser material and visible stumps.

Why landowners choose it

- **Soil stays put.** Mulching "preserves soil integrity" and can "maintain and even increase soil organic matter, reduce erosion."[1]
- **Nothing to burn or haul.** Material stays on site as mulch.
- **Selective.** The operator can work around trees you flag, with one machine instead of a dozer, loader and trucks.

The traditional toolbox

Dozing and grubbing pushes trees over and rips out stumps and roots. It strips the site to bare dirt, and extension sources warn that when roots are ripped out "a significant amount of valuable topsoil is often lost."[1]

Pile and burn is simple but, as one extension guide puts it, "poses fire hazard, hard to get complete burn, wasteful."[1] In Michigan it usually takes a burn permit, and it isn't allowed within 1,400 feet of a city or village boundary.[7]

Cut and haul-away leaves a clean site but adds trucking and disposal, and trucks can rut soft ground.

THE SHORT VERSION

For brush, buckthorn and small trees, **mulching** is the better fit: the soil stays put, the trees you flag stay standing, and there's nothing to burn or haul. Planning to build? Tell us the plan and we'll match the finish to it.





SIDE BY SIDE

Which method fits your land?

	FORESTRY MULCHING	DOZING & GRUBBING (THEN BURN OR HAUL)	CUT & HAUL-AWAY
Soil & topsoil	Left in place; mulch layer protects surface	Disturbed; topsoil can be lost with roots	Roots stay put, but skidding and trucks can rut wet ground
Debris	Becomes on-site mulch	Piled, then burned (permit rules apply) or hauled	Hauled off-site
Stumps	Ground near grade (varies by head)	Removed with roots	Left unless ground separately
Keeping trees	Easy to work around flagged trees	Harder; wide machine path	Possible with hand crews
Building plans	Roots stay and hold the soil until the build; finish matched to your plan	Bare dirt; topsoil often lost	Roots and stumps remain
Wet or rocky ground	Wet ground needs care; “very rocky sites are not conducive to mulching”	Can rut and disturb soil	Access limited by trucks
Cleanup afterward	Usually none; mulch stays on site	Burn permit or hauling, then site cleanup	Trucking and disposal

Compiled from Virginia Cooperative Extension CNRE-136.[1]

✓ MULCHING FITS WHEN...

- The growth is mostly brush and smaller stems (6 to 8 in. is typical for many setups): buckthorn, autumn olive, honeysuckle, briars, saplings
- You want trails, shooting lanes, food plot openings or fence lines
- You’d like to keep mature trees and open up the understory
- Burning isn’t allowed or practical, and you’d rather not haul debris away
- Slopes or nearby water make bare soil a risk

⚠ TELL US UP FRONT IF...

- Part of the ground is wetland or floodplain (we flag this when we quote, page 8)
- You’re planning to build. Share the plan so the clearing and finish match it
- The site is mostly large-diameter timber. Send photos and we’ll tell you what fits
- The ground is very rocky or holds standing water. Photos help us plan the job
- You expect one pass to kill buckthorn or autumn olive. It won’t; roots resprout, so plan follow-up (page 11)[1,15]

2 YOUR QUOTE

What shapes your quote

No chart can quote your land. The same acre can be an easy morning or two hard days, depending on what's growing, the ground under it and how the machine gets in. Here are the nine things that decide it, and what to send for each.

Density

How many stems are packed in is the biggest single factor. Scattered saplings go fast; wall-to-wall buckthorn means the head chews through every stem.

SEND A short video walking into the thickest part.

Stem size

Many mulching setups handle stems up to about 6 to 8 in.[1] Bigger trees are felled first or worked around and written into the same quote.

SEND A photo of your biggest trees with something for scale.

Terrain & slope

Steep, rocky or uneven ground slows the machine, and very rocky sites aren't suited to mulching at all.[1]

SEND Photos of slopes, ravines and rock piles.

Access

Gate and side-yard width, fences to open, low wires, lawn or septic to cross, and how far the trailer sits from the work.

SEND Gate width and where a trailer can unload.

Wet ground

Soft ground means slower work or a return trip once it firms up. Wet areas near water also get a closer look (page 8).[2]

SEND Standing water, cattails, creeks; spring photos if you have them.

Keeper trees

Every tree you save is a slow pass around its trunk. A few keepers is quick; a park-like thinning takes far longer than a clean sweep.

SEND Flag them, or circle them on a photo.

Finish level

Walkable, mowable or ready for a grader. A finer finish means more passes over the same ground.

SEND One line on what "done" looks like.

Stumps

Ground at or near grade by the mulcher, or flush and below grade with a separate grinder. Below grade counts as digging and needs a utility locate first (page 8).[8]

SEND Where stumps must be flush or below grade.

Travel

Hauling the machine in and out is part of every job, whatever its size. Our written quote includes travel.

SEND Your address or a pinned map location.

WHY EVERY QUOTE COMES AFTER WE SEE THE PROPERTY

Two parcels the same size can be completely different jobs. One is grass and briars on firm, open ground. The other is thick buckthorn on a wet slope behind a narrow gate, with oaks to save. A number given before anyone has looked is a guess, and guesses get revised on clearing day. So we look at your photos, video and map first. If the site is wet, heavily wooded or the lines are unclear, we may ask to see it in person. Then we put the quote in writing.

Getting an accurate written quote

A photo and your address are enough to start. The items below are helpful extras: each one helps us see the job the way the machine will.

Helpful extras that sharpen the quote

Photos	Stand where the work starts and shoot into the growth. Add one from each corner and one of the route the machine would take in.
A short video	Walk slowly into the densest part. It shows density and stem size better than any photo.
Location	Street address, or a pinned map location if there's no address.
Area	Rough acres or square feet, or outline the area on an aerial screenshot. Only the area that needs clearing counts.
Boundaries	Survey or plat if you have one; flag or describe corners near neighbors. County GIS lines are not legal boundaries.
Goal & finish	One line is enough: "open the back acre for a clover plot, keep the big oaks, mowable finish."
Keep & avoid	Keeper trees, septic tank and field, wells, gardens, sprinkler heads, buried power.
Water & slopes	Wet spots, standing water, creeks, ponds, steep banks.
Access	Gate or side-yard width, low wires, culverts, soft lawn, where a trailer can unload.
Timing	Your window and any hard deadline: a listing date, a build start, hunting season.

PHOTOS OR A WALK-THROUGH?

Photos and video are enough to quote most jobs. With wet ground, big trees, nearby water or an unclear property line, we may ask to see it in person before putting the quote in writing.

WHAT TO SETTLE IN WRITING

- **Area:** A map, sketch or flagged line, so both sides know where work stops.
- **Method & finish:** Mulching, brush hogging or both; walkable, mowable or grader-ready; stump height.
- **Protected trees & zones:** Keepers, septic, wells and no-go areas, named or marked.
- **Included vs. excluded:** Felling big trees, logs, stumps below grade, hauling chips, seeding, cleaning drives.
- **The quote:** One written quote for the whole job, travel included.
- **What could change it:** Buried wire, concrete or hidden wet ground, and how that's handled before extra work starts.
- **Schedule & weather:** Start window, the timeline, and what happens if the ground is too wet.
- **Rules & utility locates:** Anything flagged for your property, and who handles it.

WAYS TO KEEP THE JOB EFFICIENT

- Schedule for firm or frozen ground (chapter 4)
- Bundle jobs into one visit; the machine only moves in once
- Open gates and clear the access path before it arrives
- Pick up wire, old fencing and metal you know about

Backyards & small lots

On a quarter acre of buckthorn behind the house, acreage matters less than access, chips and what sits next to the work.

SMALL JOBS ARE QUOTED AS A WHOLE PROJECT

Trailering a machine, fuel and setup are about the same for a tenth of an acre as for two acres, so a backyard isn't quoted as a slice of an acreage job. Expect one quote for the visit, and list anything else you want done while the machine is there.

What we need for a house lot

- **Dry yard, mostly brush and saplings?** Photos, a short video and the gate width are usually enough for a written quote. Mention any HOA rules.
- **Water, wet ground, a creek, large trees, or more than an acre?** We may ask to see it in person, and we'll flag any local rules that apply (page 8).

Is a mulcher right for my yard?

- **Access:** measure the gate or side-yard gap and note fences, sheds, septic and soft lawn the machine would cross. Send that measurement with your photos.
- **Chips:** dense buckthorn leaves a chip mat over the whole area. Decide before the quote whether chips stay, get raked into beds, or get hauled away.
- **Tight spots:** a few shrubs, no machine access, or work tight against a house, garden or fence? Send photos and we'll tell you what fits.
- **Septic and lawn:** mark the septic tank, field and any sprinkler heads, and ask how the machine will cross the lawn.

Two examples: what actually shapes the quote

SMALL LOT

¼-acre buckthorn backyard

What shapes the quote here: the gate width, lawn and septic to cross, keepers close to the house, and whether chips stay or go. Send a photo from the gate, the gate measurement, and a video from the back fence.

ACREAGE

10 acres of pasture edge & fence row

Only the area that needs clearing counts. If only the fence rows and two brushy corners need work, mark them on an aerial. Buried woven wire and old T-posts along the line are the big unknown, so point them out.

WRITTEN QUOTE

Want a written quote for your lot?

Text a photo from the gate and your street address. We'll take it from there.

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3 BEFORE WORK STARTS

What we check for you

Dry brush under an acre, away from water, usually needs no state permit. A few situations call for extra care, and checking for them is part of every quote we write. You don't have to look any of this up.

Water or wetlands on the property

Work in a regulated wetland can need a state wetland permit.[2] Soil erosion rules are separate: they cover earth changes of an acre or more or within 500 feet of a lake or stream, and whether a mulching pass counts depends on the site and the county agency.[3] **We'll flag it during your quote.**

Oaks in spring and summer

From April 15 to July 15, beetles can carry oak wilt to fresh wounds on oaks, and red oaks can die within weeks. State foresters advise against wounding oaks in that window, clearing equipment included.[9,10] **We'll flag it during your quote.**

Digging or stump grinding

A mulching pass stays above grade. Grinding stumps below grade, grubbing or grading counts as digging, which needs a MISS DIG 811 utility locate at least 3 business days ahead. Whoever does the digging places that ticket, so when we grind below grade, we place it.[8] **We'll flag it during your quote.**

City and township tree rules

Some communities regulate removing larger trees on private land. Novi, Rochester Hills and Troy are Oakland County examples, and the details differ from one community to the next.[4,5,6] **We'll flag it during your quote.**

Bat season, for bigger woodlot cuts

Two federally protected bats roost in trees in summer. Federal screening guidelines treat tree cutting during their hibernation, generally October 31 to April 1, as unlikely to harm them.[11] **We'll flag it during your quote.**

NOT SURE WHAT APPLIES?

Send us a look at your property

To start, all we need is your address and a photo or two. We check everything above as part of the quote, and every form and text gets a reply within one business day.

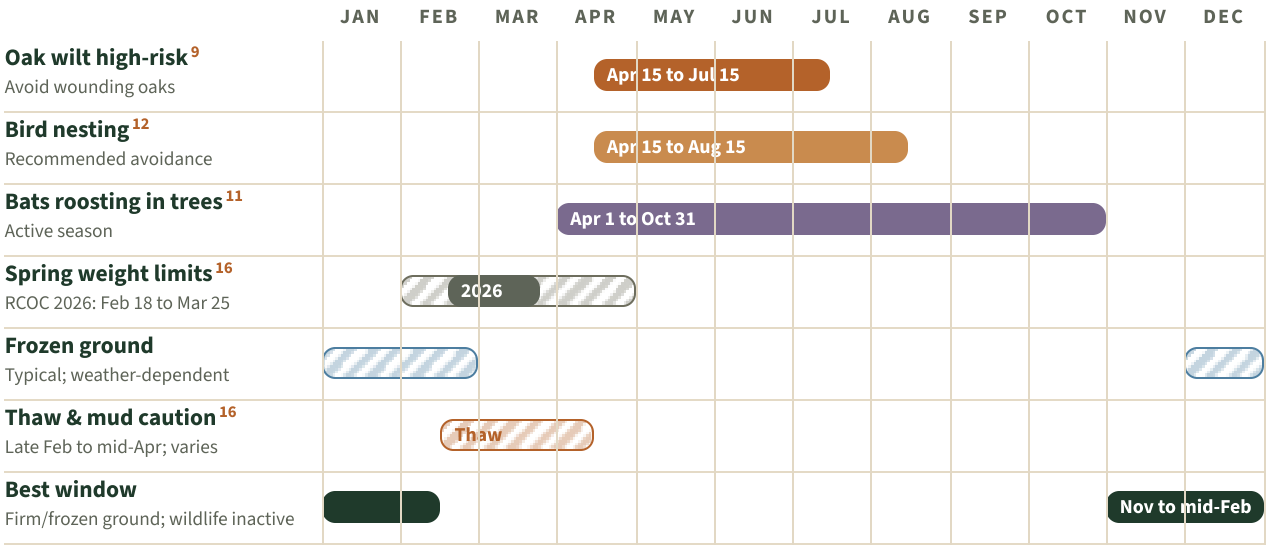
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4 TIMING

When to clear in Southeast Michigan

Late fall through the frozen weeks of winter is the best window: oaks are dormant, nesting is over, protected bats are hibernating, and firm ground doesn't rut. The spring thaw is the worst.

Southeast Michigan clearing calendar



Solid bars are dates from cited sources. Hatched bars are typical conditions that vary by year and site. Frozen-ground timing comes from general Michigan experience and has no official date, so we go by actual ground conditions. Weight limits shown are Road Commission for Oakland County's 2026 dates (Feb. 18 to Mar. 25); other counties set their own, and they limit when heavy equipment can be hauled on local roads.

Late fall & winter

Best for most jobs once ground is firm or frozen: leaves are down, keeper trees are easy to flag, and rutting is limited. Hunting land? Michigan's deer seasons span Oct. 1 to Jan. 1 (archery, the Nov. 15 to 30 firearm season and December hunts), so plan around them.[18]

Spring

The hardest season. From the late-February/March thaw into April: soft soils, posted roads, then nesting birds and the oak wilt window from April 15. Treat March as weather-dependent.[16,9]

Late summer & early fall

Oaks are safer after July 15 and nesting ends around Aug. 15. Buckthorn is easiest to spot in fall and early spring, when other plants are leafless.[9,12,15]

5 GETTING READY

Prep & clearing day

Most of the prep is clearing the way for the machine and pointing out anything buried or fragile before it arrives.

Your prep timeline

2 TO 4 WEEKS OUT
Scope, finish and timeline go in your written quote, along with anything we flagged for your property. If a boundary is in doubt, have corners staked; county GIS maps are not legal boundaries.

1 WEEK OUT
Flag keeper trees (note oaks) and hazards: wet spots, septic, wells, buried power. Utilities don't mark private lines, so point those out. If we're grinding stumps below grade, we place the MISS DIG ticket now.

DAY BEFORE
Unlock gates and open fence panels. Confirm where the trailer can unload; note low wires and culverts. Pick up wire, old fencing, metal and stones you know about. Tell neighbors.

CLEARING DAY
If you're home, walk the flags with the operator first; if not, mark them ahead of time. Stay well clear while the machine runs.

WRAP-UP
If you're home, look over boundaries and keeper trees with the operator. If not, check them when you're back.

IF IT RAINS THE WEEK OF THE JOB

If it rains the week of the job, we reschedule promptly or work only the firm areas first. Rutting soft ground is avoidable damage.

What to expect

- **It's loud and it throws debris.** A mulching head spins at high speed and can throw chips and stones. Keep people, pets and vehicles well back. The operator will tell you the safe distance.
- **Big wood.** Trees larger than the head handles (about 6 to 8 in. for many setups) are felled first or worked around.[1] Agree whether logs are left, cut to firewood length, or hauled.
- **Stumps** are ground at or near grade depending on the head and the agreed finish.[1] Confirm whether "flush" or "below grade" is in your scope.
- **Track marks** are normal on soft ground. Ask how lawns, drives and septic areas will be protected.
- **Buried surprises:** fence wire, rock piles, old dumps, concrete. Agree in writing how they're handled.

STAY BACK

Never approach a running mulcher; the head throws chips and stones a long way. Wait for the operator to stop the head and wave you in. Keep children and pets indoors or off site.

6 AFTER THE MACHINE LEAVES

Aftercare: mulch and regrowth

Mulching removes the top growth and leaves the roots in the ground. The first two growing seasons decide whether the land stays open.

The mulch layer

The chip layer shields bare soil from rain and erosion and slowly adds organic matter.[1] Leave it on the surface: MSU Extension advises against mixing fresh wood chips into soil, where they can tie up nitrogen as they break down.[19]

Expect regrowth

Most hardwoods and woody invasives resprout from roots and stumps unless something kills the root system.[1] For buckthorn, plan on a multi-year effort: most seeds in the soil sprout within two years, and with no follow-up "buckthorn will come back."[15]

- **Mow or brush-hog regrowth** at least once a season.
- **Targeted herbicide** on resprouts (cut-stump or foliar), following the label. Ask about follow-up when you request your quote.
- **Walk the property yearly** to catch new seedlings early; fall and early spring are best for spotting buckthorn.[15]

Reseed and stabilize

Seed bare patches with grass, clover or natives so invaders have less room to return, starting with slopes and anything that drains toward water.[15]

Food plots

Start with a soil test. MSU Extension recommends its commercial soil test for food plots.[17] A thick chip layer can stall same-season planting: rake or push chips aside where you'll plant (or give it a season), lime and fertilize per the results, and knock back regrowth first.

Trails & lanes

A thin mulched bed usually walks well right away; a thick chip mat may need raking, blowing aside or a season to settle before it mows cleanly. Plan an annual mowing pass and water bars on slopes.

Building lots

Mulching clears the brush and small trees and leaves the soil in place until the build starts. Tell us the build plan when you ask for a quote, and we'll match the finish to it.

Fence lines

Keep a mowable strip on your side of the line and touch it up every year or two, before saplings get big enough to need a machine again.

Buckthorn, autumn olive & other invaders

Most overgrown land in Southeast Michigan is thick with the same few invasive shrubs. Knowing which one you have tells you what follow-up it needs.

Having them isn't a violation

Autumn olive and **phragmites** are on Michigan's restricted list, and common and glossy **buckthorn** and **Japanese barberry** become restricted on January 1, 2028. The rules target selling and spreading them. Having them on your land is not a violation.[13]

What mulching does, and the follow-up buckthorn needs

- **Roots resprout.** Follow-up cut-stump or foliar treatment is the standard approach in Minnesota DNR's widely used buckthorn guidance.[15]
- **Seed keeps coming.** Most buckthorn seed in the soil sprouts within two years, so plan on two seasons of follow-up.[15]
- **Phragmites is different.** EGLE recommends herbicide *first* and mowing at least two weeks later; tilling spreads it.[14] If you have it, mention it with your photos so the job is planned in the right order.

Quick ID: four you'll see in Southeast Michigan[13]

Common buckthorn

Shrub or small tree to 25 ft; oval, slightly toothed leaves; twigs often end in a single sharp thorn.

Glossy buckthorn

Shiny leaves and pea-sized red-to-purple fruit. Despite the name, no thorns.

Autumn olive

Shrub to 20 ft; leaves bright green on top, distinctly silver underneath; speckled red berries in fall.

Phragmites

Invasive reed 6 to 13 ft tall; rigid hollow stems; dense, feathery flower clusters at the tips.

WHEN THEY'RE EASIEST TO SPOT

Fall and early spring, when buckthorn is still green and most other plants are leafless. A short video from that time of year shows exactly how thick it is.[15]

INVASIVE GROWTH REMOVAL

Buckthorn or autumn olive taking over?

Send a short video of the thickest part and your address, and we'll put the job in writing.

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team@geservesmi.com
quote.geservesmi.com/form

7 YOUR QUESTIONS

Common questions, answered

Straight answers to what landowners ask us most before a job. For anything not covered here, call or text and ask.

What's in the written quote?

The whole job in one quote: scope, finish, timeline and travel. Anything we flagged for your property (page 8) is noted too.

What do you need from me to start?

Your address and a photo or two. Three or four phone photos (the access, the worst of the brush, the trees you want kept) and what you want the ground for are enough to quote most jobs. If we need more, we'll ask.

How long does a job take?

Most residential lots take a day or two; thick growth and larger acreage take longer. Your written quote includes the timeline.

What happens to the mulch?

It stays on site and breaks down naturally, so there's nothing to burn or haul. The chip layer shields bare soil and slowly adds organic matter.[1] A thick mat may need raking or a season to settle before it mows cleanly (page 11).

What if my ground is wet?

Soft ground means slower work or a return trip once it firms up, which is why firm or frozen ground, roughly November to mid-February, is the best window (page 9). Wet areas near water also get a closer look when we quote (page 8).

What about stumps?

A mulching pass grinds stumps at or near grade, depending on the head and the finish.[1] Flush or below grade takes a separate grinder and counts as digging, so a MISS DIG locate comes first, and we place it.[8] Tell us where stumps must be flush or below grade so the quote covers it.

What about the bigger trees?

Many mulching setups handle stems up to about 6 to 8 in.[1] Larger trees inside the work area are planned with you and written into the same quote. Flag any you want kept.

Do I need to be home?

No, you don't have to be. We coordinate access and can work on our own, but you're more than welcome to watch from a safe distance if you'd like. If some areas matter most, we can clear them first.

STILL HAVE A QUESTION?

Ask us, or start your quote

Call or text 8 AM to 8 PM, seven days a week, or start a quote online with a photo.

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Six common jobs and what goes wrong

JOB	DECIDE & TELL US	WHAT WE CHECK	TIMING	WHAT GOES WRONG
Food plots & hunting trails	Mark plots, stands and trails on an aerial photo; flag mast oaks to keep.	Low, wet spots near water.	Late August or September, before the deer seasons open Oct. 1, or after they close Jan. 1.[18]	Planting straight into a thick chip mat. Rake chips off the seedbed, soil-test, then lime and fertilize.[17,19]
Fence lines	Confirm the true line; old fences often aren't on it. Point out buried wire and T-posts.	Nesting season in brushy rows.[12]	Any firm-ground stretch; outside Apr 15 to Aug 15 if possible.	Buried woven wire wraps the mulching head and stops the job.
Overgrown lots	Pick the finish: walkable, mowable or ready for a grader.	City or township rules on larger trees.[4,5]	Late fall to winter; mow regrowth the next summer.	Expecting one pass to finish it. Resprouts show up the first season.[1]
Buckthorn & invasives	Plan for the knockdown and a follow-up treatment.	Phragmites, which needs herbicide before mowing.[14]	Clear fall to winter; treat resprouts late summer to fall.	No follow-up. Seed in the soil sprouts for about two years.[15]
Pre-build lots	Clear the footprint and working room only.	Acreage, nearby water, local tree rules, and a utility locate before below-grade grinding.[8]	Well ahead of the build start.	Clearing the whole lot before site approval, which can trigger erosion and tree-replacement rules.[3,6]
Views & waterfront	Flag the trees that frame the view.	Distance to the water and any shoreline wetland.[2]	Late fall to winter, outside the oak and nesting windows.	Grinding to bare soil down to the bank, which invites erosion.[3]

ONE VISIT, SEVERAL JOBS

A fence line, a trail loop and a plot opening done in one trip share a single move-in. List everything when you ask for the quote, even the jobs you might do later.

ALREADY PART OF YOUR QUOTE

Water and wetlands, oaks in season, local tree rules and utility locates are on our list for every job (page 8). You don't need to sort them out first.

PRINTABLE CHECKLIST

Land Clearing Project Checklist

Property: _____

Date: _____ Acres: _____

Goals & scope

- [ ] Goal written down (trail, plot, lot, view, fence line)
- [ ] Finish chosen: walkable / mowable / grader-ready
- [ ] Area marked on a map or sketch
- [ ] Photos and video of the densest area

Property

- [ ] Survey or plat located; corners known
- [ ] Easements or HOA rules noted
- [ ] Neighbors told about work near shared lines
- [ ] Keeper trees flagged (oaks noted)

Mention when you ask for a quote

- [ ] Water, wet spots or a creek nearby
- [ ] Oaks near the work
- [ ] Stumps that must go below grade
- [ ] Your city or township
- [ ] Larger trees in a woodlot

Notes

Timing

- [ ] Start window picked for firm or frozen ground
- [ ] Oak work outside Apr 15 to Jul 15
- [ ] Brushy clearing outside Apr 15 to Aug 15 (nesting) if possible
- [ ] Hunting land planned around the deer seasons (Oct 1 to Jan 1)

Site prep

- [ ] Private lines pointed out: well, septic, buried power
- [ ] Gates open, access path clear, vehicles moved
- [ ] Known debris, wire and metal removed
- [ ] Kids and pets kept off site on clearing day

Your quote

- [ ] Address and photos sent
- [ ] Written quote with inclusions and exclusions
- [ ] Timeline and start window in writing
- [ ] Weather plan in the quote

Aftercare

- [ ] Reseeding plan for bare and sloped areas
- [ ] Regrowth follow-up scheduled (mow / treat)
- [ ] Soil test ordered for food plots
- [ ] Yearly invasive walk-through on the calendar

Dates from the Michigan DNR and U-M EHS; sources on page 16.

CHECKLIST DONE?

Send it with your photos for a written quote

You don't need every box ticked. Snap a photo, add your address and send it our way.

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ENDNOTES

Sources

All sources accessed November 2026. Rules change, so we check the current ones for your property when we quote.

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