

vistas

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Celebrating a 30-year milestone

Matt Armson, IVM product manager, Dow AgroSciences

You might have noticed a special graphic on the cover of this issue. It's meant to signify a milestone for this newsletter.

While staying power can certainly be difficult to achieve, for the past 30 years, the *Vistas*® newsletter has gone to print, bringing information and news to those in the Industrial Vegetation Management (IVM) industry. The newsletter's beginnings stemmed from a desire to fill a void and produce a trade journal dedicated to featuring things relevant to the people working in this important industry.

And while that longevity might be somewhat remarkable, what's also significant is the lasting commitment it demonstrates from Dow AgroSciences to this industry. Beyond just producing *Vistas*, Dow AgroSciences has supported vegetation management professionals for more than 60 years with the research and development of new products and innovative uses, and through the building of a nationwide team of IVM specialists dedicated to providing a high level of service to its customers.

Different look, same commitment

While the look of the *Vistas* newsletter has changed over the years, its original purpose hasn't. *Vistas* has featured pieces on a wide variety of vegetation management operations, from utility to roadside to forestry, all with the intention of bringing readers useful practices and recommendations from industry peers. And its pages have included everything from weed and brush recommendations to new product information to shining

a spotlight on all manners of vegetation management partnerships and initiatives across the country.

Dow AgroSciences' plan is to continue leading the industry with the research and development of the most innovative herbicides and through the sharing of ideas and advice through unique vehicles, such as *Vistas*. Because we believe there's a lot more to vegetation management than just chemistry. Thanks for your support of *Vistas*® and Dow AgroSciences.



InvasiveWatch

AUTUMN AND RUSSIAN OLIVE (*ELAEAGNUS UMBELLATA* AND *E. ANGUSTIFOLIA*, RESPECTIVELY)

WHAT TO LOOK FOR.

Autumn olive and Russian olive are non-native rapidly growing deciduous bushy shrubs or small trees, often reaching heights of 20 and 35 feet. Both produce abundant fruits, which are widely dispersed by birds and animals, resulting in many scattered plants.

Autumn olive's leaves are alternate, generally oval, dark green to gray-green above and silvery beneath. Small silvery-white to yellow flowers appear after the first leaves, producing many small red berries in the fall. The bark is usually brown to yellowish-brown and smooth except old stems become fissured, exposing light-brown inner bark.

Russian olive leaves are narrower, longer and dark green with silver scales on the underside. It produces yellow flowers and dry yellow fruit in the fall. The bark is smooth, reddish brown, and the twigs are typically covered with thorns.

WHERE THEY ARE FOUND.

Autumn olive is native to eastern Asia, while Russian olive is a native of Asia and southern Europe. Since the 1800s, both have been used in North America as ornamentals in landscaping, for strip mine reclamation and erosion control. They are also frequently introduced to provide wildlife habitat. However, even with the food and cover these trees provide, it's been determined that native species provide more benefits without destroying native biodiversity. Russian olive, especially, will monopolize water supplies in wet or flooded soils, making these sites unfavorable for native tree species.

The most common sites include open woods, forest edges, roadsides, fencerows, old fields, pastures and heavily disturbed areas. Once established, they tend to form dense thickets, which are then potential fuel loads for wildfires. They are challenging and expensive to eradicate and can interfere with tree regeneration.



Autumn olive
Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



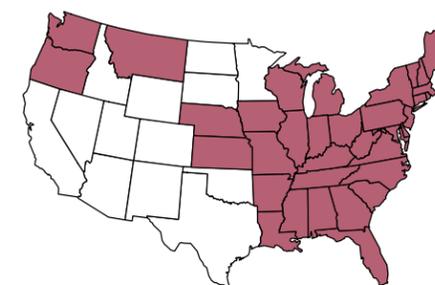
Russian olive
Patrick Breen, Oregon State University, Bugwood.org

HOW TO TREAT THEM.

Apply 20 percent to 30 percent of Garlon® 4 Ultra specialty herbicide in basal oil or Pathfinder® II specialty herbicide (which is a convenient ready-to-use product) as basal bark or cut-stump treatments. These treatments can be made anytime of the year, including the dormant season, allowing for work to be spread out.

Another option is a foliar treatment of 7 fluid ounces of Milestone® specialty herbicide plus 3 quarts of Garlon 4 Ultra specialty herbicide per acre. Apply to undisturbed plants — or, if mowed or cut, wait until the resprouts are at least 3 to 4 feet tall (usually 1 growing season). It is very important for the applicator to obtain good foliar coverage with the herbicide spray solution.

Elimination of these plants requires follow-up treatments for two or more years. Establishing a thick cover of desirable trees and/or grasses will discourage seedling emergence and establishment, making the selectivity of both Milestone and Garlon 4 Ultra valuable as they allow for release of most grass species.



■ States with autumn olive



■ States with Russian olive

Source: USDA PLANTS Database Profile

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When treating areas in and around roadside or utility rights-of-way that are or will be grazed, hayed or planted to forage, important label precautions apply regarding harvesting hay from treated sites, using manure from animals grazing on treated areas or rotating the treated area to sensitive crops. See the product label for details. State restrictions on the sale and use of Garlon 4 Ultra and Milestone apply. Consult the label before purchase or use for full details. Always read and follow label directions.

IN CALIFORNIA, PRODUCING TIMBER COMES WITH PLENTY OF CHALLENGES



Charred timber serves as a reminder of the ever-present threat of wildfire to California foresters.

In the mid-1800s, thousands flocked to the mountains of western California when the discovery of gold in a lumber mill sparked the famous Gold Rush. And while this accidental discovery caused some loggers to drop their saw and pick up a pickaxe, it wasn't long before timber was once again being felled. Forestry practices have evolved over many decades, yet, without experience and the right tools, success in the timber business can be almost as challenging as mining for gold once was.

Sierra Pacific Industries, based in Anderson, California, is a third-generation, family-owned forest products company that owns and manages nearly 1.9 million

acres of timberland across California and Washington.

Mark Gray is the reforestation manager for Sierra Pacific's Coast Cascade region in western California. He's been involved in reforestation for more than 20 years, and before that he spent 14 years as a herbicide contractor to the forestry industry. But even with his extensive experience, California always presents fresh challenges.

"There are many variables that can affect your approach to forestry here," says Gray. "For instance, there are major differences in rainfall and elevation over short distances. We face the constant threat of both destructive drought cycles and

wildfires. Add to that, the rugged terrain this mountainous area is known for."

That's not all, he says. Unpredictable pine beetle infestations are common and kill many trees, but also results in the harvest of healthy surrounding trees to prevent further infestation. Then, there's navigating and complying with the plethora of state and federal regulations. Altogether, it's enough to keep the most experienced forester on his or her toes.

Vegetation management means life or death for trees

Each year, Sierra Pacific puts 6 million trees in the ground across its ownership,

made up of multiple native species like Douglas fir, white fir, hemlock, ponderosa pine, sugar pine and incense cedar — all blended to maintain biological diversity.

"Specifically, in the last 10 to 12 years, we have been focusing on planting more diverse species, not just Douglas fir or Ponderosa pine," says Gray. "Tree diversity shields against beetles and other forest health issues, but also gives us more options at harvest time because lumber values shift."

A significant amount of Gray's time is dedicated to vegetation management around these new plantings. Using herbicides as a part of vegetation management plays a key role in prepping sites for planting, and then for protecting newly planted seedlings from weeds and brush that rob trees of precious soil moisture and nutrients.

"Vegetation management to us means our trees live or die — it's that simple," says Gray. "Without protection, those seedlings don't make it. So, using the right herbicides to control weed pressure is essential."

Finding herbicides that fit in this environment isn't easy, which is why foresters here rely on each other for help. Sierra Pacific, along with several local timber producers and related companies, is a member of the Sierra Cascade Intensive Forest Management Research Cooperative, which researches new herbicide chemistries for use in forestry vegetation management.

"This is a fraternal industry and foresters here lean on each other for better methods of doing things," says Gray. "And we want to pass our knowledge down to the new generation of foresters, and ensure the sustainability of this industry for years to come."

A new tool for foresters comes from an unexpected place

In 2012, the Cooperative began trials with a promising herbicide called Pindar® GT herbicide from Dow AgroSciences — another member of the Cooperative. Pindar GT had been registered exclusively

for use in the California tree, nut and noncropland markets, but when the research and development team at Dow AgroSciences reviewed the list of weeds and brush seedlings it controlled, and its tolerance to species of conifers, they saw a potential fit in forestry.

"This is a fraternal industry and foresters here lean on each other for better methods of doing things."

Mark Gray
Reforestation Manager

That tree tolerance would be tested and show the ability to safely apply Pindar GT right over the tops of seedlings, eliminating the common and laborious practice of shielding them during an application. Furthermore, Pindar GT was formulated

to be safe for use around crops, which may be adjacent to forested acres. And its proven long-lasting residual control would reduce application frequency. Pending trials and label approval, it was decided to make the herbicide available under the trade name Cleantraxx™ herbicide to the Industrial Vegetation Management market for use in forestry in certain states (California, Oregon and Washington), and also noncropland sites such as roadside and utility rights-of-way.

Gray and Sierra Pacific played a key role in the trials. Several test plots were set up in various locations on Sierra Pacific acres.

"The first year of testing was an experimental crash course, as we did our best to try and account for all the environmental variables we deal with," says Gray. "But it's always fun to get new chemistry to work with, and in subsequent years we got the hang of it and started seeing some really positive results."



Beau Miller (left) of Dow AgroSciences surveys a Sierra Pacific site treated with Cleantraxx™ herbicide with forester Rob Fecco (right).

The Cooperative's results helped confirm the potential seen by the Dow AgroSciences research and development team.

"In our trials, we applied it right over the tops of delicate seedlings — without injury to them — to control broadleaf weeds, annual grasses and germinating brush," says Gray. "And we discovered how sticky Cleantraxx is — it doesn't move from where it's applied and sets in the soil with much less rain. We saw clean lines of control, where other herbicides could wash away, costing us weed control."

Beau Miller, IVM specialist with Dow AgroSciences, helped set up some demonstrations and organized tours for foresters to see the results. "We appreciated the involvement Dow AgroSciences had in the trials, it

shows a commitment to the industry," says Gray. "The bottom line is that if you bring us good products, we'll use them. And Dow's products are good."

After the necessary approvals, Cleantraxx received a Special Local Needs (SLN) label for use in California forestry, and now has SLNs for use in forestry in Oregon and Washington as well.

Moving from test plots to large-scale applications

Gray and other reforestation managers at Sierra Pacific didn't waste time in getting Cleantraxx out on acres they were reforesting.

As you'd expect, these acres contain a wide variety of weed and brush

species to control, including snowbrush, deerbrush, squaw carpet, manzanita and several grasses. For site prep, Gray started using a mix of Cleantraxx with Accord® XRT II specialty herbicide. "We go in and spray, and there is no waiting to plant because of the excellent crop tolerance," says Gray. For conifer release once seedlings are in the ground, Gray uses just Cleantraxx.

Sierra Pacific goes the extra mile in its site prep, as part of an overall commitment to ensure the land it forests is well maintained. At many sites, crews accumulate massive burn piles of remaining scrap to reduce fuel for potential wildfires. Also, bulldozers are brought in to break up soil compaction from years of past logging and create ridges in the soil. This process is called



The first few years are critical to delicate seedlings as they start their long journey to harvest.

contour subsoiling and it serves to reduce erosion and save moisture for trees by increasing infiltration of water.

Repairing the devastation after a wildfire

California's average growth cycle for timber is 60 to 80 years, so it's devastating when that cycle is cut short before harvest. And nothing interrupts a timber cycle quite like a wildfire.

In the fall of 2014, the King Fire scorched over 97,000 acres of land in El Dorado County, California, including more than 17,000 forested acres owned by Sierra Pacific, enacting a major unplanned reforestation effort. On the front lines is Rob Fecko, a reforestation forester for Sierra Pacific's Camino district.

"After a wildfire, the first step is a salvage harvest — to try and recoup any remaining timber of value," says Fecko. "Then, we can begin the normal site prep process."

Fecko has been using two herbicide site prep treatments on the King Fire acres. For a springtime application, he uses a mix of Cleantraxx and Accord XRT II as a broadcast spray. "We have been seeing exceptional residual control using Cleantraxx at only 3 pints per acre," says Fecko.

For a fall application, he uses a mix of Accord XRT II, Milestone® specialty herbicide (which has a California SLN forestry label) and imazapyr. "This mix gets great results as well," says Fecko. "The residual control will hold easily through spring, and most times up to a year, so whenever I come back, the ground is ready to plant."

Seedlings are already in the ground at the King Fire site, and a rotational herbicide treatment plan is in place using Cleantraxx and, in some cases, using both Cleantraxx and Transline® specialty herbicide to keep it that way. "We treated 3,700 acres in late 2015

and early 2016, 1,600 acres of which were treated with the Cleantraxx mix, and we plan to treat at least another 3,500 acres this year," says Fecko.

A ground crew of 20 can cover between 60 and 80 acres a day walking and spraying, usually at an application rate of 15 gallons per acre. Ground treatments are most common, in part because aerial applicators are scarce.

"The first year is critical because if you don't get the brush, it will grow over the seedlings by the third year and you'll have to go back and respray everything," says Fecko. "When you get good residual control, it allows you to manage it differently in the future and just spot spray the woody species that might come back."

Doing things the right way

There was never any doubt that the acres burned by the King Fire would be reforested, but the same wasn't true at another site destroyed by fire. In the summer of 2008, near Redding, Sierra Pacific lost 12,000 acres to what was known as the Moon fire.

"The site of the Moon fire has some of the roughest terrain imaginable and no one was sure it was worth the trouble and expense to go back and replant," says Gray. "But, ultimately, it was decided to reforest those acres because it was the responsible thing to do. We didn't want to leave that area to be overtaken by whatever vegetation happens to come in."

It's how Sierra Pacific has always operated — pushing to make things better — despite challenges. Whether it's taking extra time and effort with site prep, responsibly reforesting acres, or using the best herbicides.

"Cost isn't the only consideration; it's all about doing things the right way," says Fecko. "And it's great to work for a company that does business like that."



The site of the Moon fire near Redding, California, was a difficult area for Sierra Pacific Industries to replant because of harsh terrain.

Milestone specialty herbicide is labeled for use in forestry site preparation treatments in AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MN, MS, NC, SC, TX and VA. Milestone has a Special Local Need registration for forestry site prep uses in CA.

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VASTLAN™ HELPS KEEP RAIL FREIGHT MOVING



Tracks free of weeds and brush ensure safe passage of freight along railways.

Rail moves more freight in the United States than any other mode of transportation, and the current U.S. freight rail network is considered one of the most dynamic in the world.

These railroad companies are responsible for their own maintenance and, compared with other major industries, they invest a very high percentage of revenues toward maintaining their systems.

A significant portion of this investment in upkeep goes toward vegetation management. Overgrown weeds and brush are a safety and operational issue for railroads. Among other things, they hinder operator visibility and pose a fire hazard, which is why railroads implement aggressive herbicide treatment programs aimed at eradicating weeds and brush before they become a problem. It's a big job when, according to the Federal Railroad Administration, this \$60 billion industry consists of 140,000 rail miles operated by seven Class I railroads, along with 21 regional railroads and 510 local railroads.

Vastlan™ specialty herbicide came to market in 2016 as a new solution for foundation brush, vine and broadleaf weed control with several benefits that make it well-suited for use

on railroads. Many of those responsible for managing railroad vegetation took notice and began using it in their programs, experiencing impressive results.

Less product delivers the same control

DBi Services is a leading provider of maintenance to railroads and had been using Garlon® 3A specialty herbicide for many years in both brush and mainline treatments, with good success. However, when Terry Waggoner, DBi Region 4 railroad division manager, was introduced to Vastlan, he saw some clear advantages to switching treatments.

"With the high-load formulation of Vastlan, we are able to use around 25 percent less material, which is a big deal for us because we work with very high volumes," says Waggoner, who is responsible for the management of 15,000 miles of rail across 10 states, stretching from Texas up through the Midwest. "And it's performed incredibly, giving us great results. It's proven to be excellent in controlling the woody vines, brush and broadleaves that interfere with the track area."

Waggoner uses Vastlan in mainline treatments to clean up any encroaching woody vines and brush. For straight brush work,

he prefers a mix of Vastlan with Tordon® K specialty herbicide. With this mix, he is targeting a lot of hardwood species such as oaks, cedar and mesquite, depending on where the application is taking place.

He also really appreciates the fact that Vastlan™ specialty herbicide is not a Restricted Use Pesticide, meaning there are fewer hurdles to jump through when applying it. Beyond that, Waggoner likes introducing new herbicides into his prescribed mixes in that it helps address a much larger issue.

"Weed resistance is an interesting challenge for us and, really, everyone in this industry," Waggoner says. "Anytime we can bring a new herbicide into the mix, instead of just increasing our usage rates, it's a good thing for dealing with resistance management issues."

Great control, without the strong odor

Asplundh is another leading vegetation management contractor to railroads, and Mark Goodall is a general foreperson with the Asplundh Railroad Division. In his day-to-day duties, he interacts with railroad personnel to ensure everything is running smoothly. He's also responsible for recommending herbicides and scheduling their application.

For years, Goodall had been successfully using Garlon 3A in brush and mainline mixes with a lot of success. But there was one feature of Garlon 3A he could do without: the smell.

"We really liked the control we got with Garlon 3A, but it has a very strong odor," Goodall says. "And when you're dealing with large quantities — in our case — hauling several-thousand-gallon tanks contained inside boxcars, it tends to amplify things and make it hard to take. Vastlan gives us the same great control, without that strong odor, which is a big deal for us or anyone mixing at such high volumes."



On the left, weeds cover the tracks, while the tracks on the right are clear after a treatment that included Vastlan.

Goodall prescribes a mix of Vastlan, along with glyphosate, sulfometuron and indaziflam, for mainline treatments. For brush, he uses Vastlan mixed with glyphosate. In both mixes, Goodall uses 1.5 pints of Vastlan™ specialty herbicide.

"We love the results we get with both mixes — Vastlan really does the job," Goodall says. "Plus, we had been using 2 pints of Garlon 3A in these mixes, but now we're getting the same great results with only 1.5 pints of Vastlan."

Keeping vegetation in check

Encroaching weeds and brush along rail lines is a problem that's not going away anytime soon. Both DBi Services and Asplundh have their sights set on keeping troublesome vegetation in check on our nation's railroads, so they can continue to safely deliver important freight from coast to coast.



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VEGETATION MANAGEMENT NEWS & NOTES

Strong launch continues for Vastlan™ specialty herbicide and Cleantraxx™ herbicide



In 2016, Dow AgroSciences launched two new IVM herbicide formulations: Vastlan™ specialty herbicide and Cleantraxx™ herbicide. With strong demand, both quickly received registration for use across the country — with Vastlan currently registered for use in all states except California, Massachusetts and New York, and Cleantraxx currently registered for use in all states except Vermont.



“We were pleased to be able to bring two new solutions to market in 2016 and were excited about the strong demand and positive results we saw for both,” says Casey Onstot, IVM portfolio marketing leader, Dow AgroSciences. “With a year under our belts, we expect that demand will be even stronger in 2017.”

An enhanced version of an industry mainstay, Vastlan provides vegetation managers with a solid foundation for brush control programs while offering the flexibility to be utilized in a wide array of other applications. It exhibits no residual soil activity and the essentially nonvolatile nature means it can be used in nearly any situation calling for grass-safe brush and broadleaf control. And, Vastlan has a decreased signal word than “Danger” compared with older triclopyr formulations.

“Many vegetation managers have made the move from Garlon 3A to the improved formulation of Vastlan in their brush control programs,” Onstots says. “Besides the benefit of using less product, we’ve received a lot of positive feedback on the dramatically reduced odor of Vastlan.”

Cleantraxx™ herbicide offers preemergence and early postemergence control of broadleaf weeds and annual grasses as well as certain woody brush seedlings. It is an excellent tank-mix partner for total vegetation control treatments as well as for selective weeding within roadside applications.



“Cleantraxx is quickly gaining traction as a rotational tank-mix partner in total vegetation control programs and in many roadside programs,” Onstot says. “And we’re excited about the potential it’s shown in the California forestry market, and what that could mean for forestry markets across the country.”

For more information on Vastlan or Cleantraxx, or to find the most current listing of state registrations, please visit VegetationMgmt.com.

Get your VM news on your computer, phone or tablet

There’s a lot going on within the IVM industry, and Dow AgroSciences wants to help keep vegetation managers up to speed on the latest and greatest with informative resources. For more than five years, *Vistas*® online, the electronic version of the print newsletter, has been providing all the same great content the print version provides to those



in the VM industry as well as additional content online that isn’t featured in the print version. *Vistas* online also shares success stories, presents important research, brings the latest product news and application techniques, and keeps you connected to the latest industry trends.

Whether you just prefer to read your news online or you want access to the additional content, consider signing up to receive *Vistas* online. We promise not to overload your inbox, with issues going out approximately six times per year.

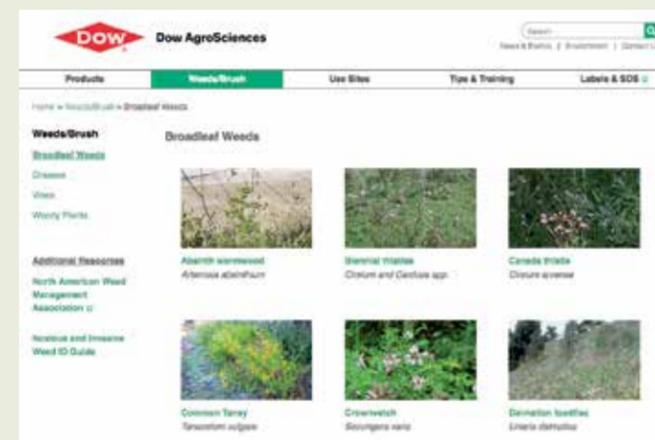
New Vistas® update form now live!

Are you or a colleague looking to sign up to receive the *Vistas* newsletter? Or maybe you’re already a subscriber but need to change your mailing address, want to submit a question or even provide us with some feedback on a story you read in the latest issue.

Well, now you can do that and more in one convenient location. Simply visit Vistas-update.com. Once on the site, make the appropriate selection from the drop-down menu and fill out the simple form that corresponds with your request. Click Submit, and you’re all finished.

For the submission to be complete, you will need to provide an email address so we can confirm your request has been submitted and is being processed. But we won’t send you anything at that address unless you’ve requested it.

BROWSE THE ONLINE WEED ID GUIDE



Correctly identifying a weed species is the first step in effectively treating it. And with so many species out there appearing on rights-of-way and roadsides, it’s a daunting challenge for vegetation managers to always know what they are dealing

with, much less find solutions to control the problem. For help, check out the updated weed identification section of VegetationMgmt.com. There, you’ll find a lot of information to help identify and treat the most troublesome broadleaf weeds, grasses, vines and woody species.

In all, 68 species of broadleaf weeds, grasses, vines and woody plant species that are commonly found on rights-of-way, roadsides, forestry sites and railroads are covered. Information includes several images of each species and vital statistics about the plant itself, including leaves, fruit and flowering characteristics. Finally, specific herbicide treatment options are given with exact rates and timing recommendations. There are also links to other available online resources.

If you can’t find the species listed on the site, simply refer to either the specialist card inserted into the middle of this newsletter or turn to the back cover to find the Dow AgroSciences IVM specialist in your area. The specialist assigned to your area will be able to help identify and provide treatment recommendations.

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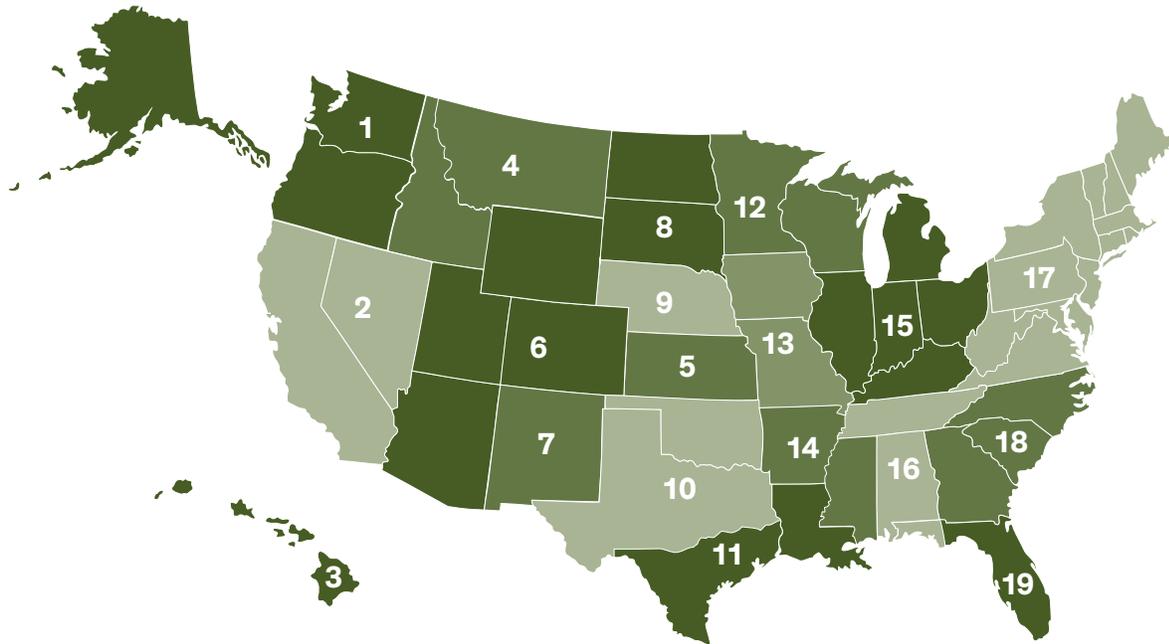
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