

IMPACTS OF FOREST MANAGEMENT ON MEDICINAL HERBS IN THE MISSOURI OZARKS

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ABSTRACT

As agroforestry becomes more accepted in the Midwestern US, understanding how non-timber forest product species (NTFPs) growth is impacted by forest management practice becomes increasingly important. Three studies were conducted to assess the impacts of forest management on NTFPs. One study compared size, reproduction and mortality of four NTFPs in discrete canopy gaps and under undisturbed canopy control. A second and third study assessed relationships ($P < 0.05$) between percent cover and frequency of NTFPs, with ecological site types, different timber harvest types, and the number of prescribed fires. Results show that small canopy gaps, uneven-aged management harvest types (group selection and single-tree selection), particular site types and prescribed fire can be beneficial to the growth of these non-timber forest product species. Knowing how these species perform under these scenarios can be used to co-manage herb and tree populations for profit.