



### Step 1: Simple Method for Organic Control of Ailanthus (or other invasive tree species)

**Timing:** Late fall, winter, or early spring

**Tools:** Short drawknife (6")

**Technique:** Starting at the base of the tree, draw knife up under bark of tree, removing a strip about 18"-24" long with each pass; completely remove bark all around tree. Hint: turning the knife around so the sharp edge is up makes it easier, since the knife doesn't bite too deep. You are removing *only the bark*; you are not actually girdling the tree.

**Follow-up:** After one growing season, re-visit the treated trees. Late fall through spring is a good time, since the underbrush has died down and you can see easily. Observe regrowth and stomp down stump sprouts. Pull any small seedlings, if present. Repeat after 2nd growing season, if necessary. Be wary in windy weather -- you have deliberately weakened this tree and it will eventually fall down. Usually it loses much of its mass before this happens and doesn't cause much damage to other vegetation, but beware and be safe.

**Resources:** Plant Conservation Alliance, Alien Plant Working Group  
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/>

Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources, Div. of Forestry  
(invasive plant identification)  
<http://www.ohiodnr.com/default/tabid/21391/Default.aspx>

Traditional Woodworker (drawknives)  
<http://www.traditionalwoodworker.com/>



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## Step 2: Added Value with Culinary Mushroom Production

**Timing:** Any time 2-4 weeks after above treatment, when daytime temperatures are above freezing.

**Tools:** 36V cordless drill with 5/16" or 8.5 mm high speed bit; extra battery pack, if required (each slim-pack 36V battery does ~5 trees); hammer; aluminum tree tags, nails & pencil; appropriate plug spawn of native Ohio medicinal or culinary mushroom -- any species that naturally grow on logs will probably work. Oyster mushroom (*Pleurotus ostreatus*) is a particularly good choice.

**Technique:** Drill 5-6 holes 4-6" apart in vertical rows spaced 2" apart in the tree just above the treated area, at about breast height. This is the classic diamond shape inoculation pattern used in mushroom log cultivation. This pattern will yield between 50-80 holes per tree, depending on diameter. Tap plug spawn into holes, flush with bark. Label each tree with mushroom strain and date.

**Follow-up:** Inspect periodically, especially after rainy periods and dramatic temperature changes, for mushroom formation. Re-visit and treat stump sprouts as before. If desired, monitor moisture content -- mycelium development requires  $\geq 30\%$  wood moisture content. Full incubation of an entire tree may take some time, perhaps a year or two or longer. Be patient.

**Resources:** Field & Forest Products (mushroom supplies, high-speed bit)  
<http://www.fieldforest.net/>

Fungi Perfecti (mushroom supplies)  
<http://www.fungiperfecti.com/>

Mushroom Harvest (native Ohio mushroom strains, mushroom supplies)  
<http://www.mushroomharvest.com/>

Forestry Suppliers (aluminum tags, nails)  
<http://www.forestry-suppliers.com/>



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