not typically damage the trees while they are dormant. However, water should be drained before tree buds begin to swell in late winter or early spring to avoid damaging the trees. If a reservoir is flooded at the same time of year for a long period of time (20 years or so), tree species in the stand can begin to shift toward trees more tolerant of flooding such as bald cypress. Therefore, it is a good idea to flood the area every other year, or flood 2 out of 3 consecutive years. The change of species in a reservoir also can be slowed by flooding the area at different times in the fall from year to year and drawing down water slowly in stages. Also, the forest stand can be managed in the summer by removing undesirable tree species and promoting the growth of desirable mast producing trees such as oaks, sweet gum, and pecan.

Although many woody plants are beneficial to waterfowl, some can become problematic. The amount of woody vegetation and their structure can influence the species of waterfowl using a wetland. If woody plants are desired for certain waterfowl species, reducing soil disturbance will allow them to establish. If woody plants are not desired, disking or burning every few years may be required to control woody plants. Disking favors annual plants (prolific seed producers) more than burning, but operating equipment is risky because of soft soil. Moist-soil management can be conducted on farm ponds, beaver ponds, or any other impoundment with a water control structure to manipulate water level. If a wetland does not have a water control structure, consider installing one.

Japanese millet can be purchased commercially and broadcast onto mud flats in moist-soil units after water levels have been drawn down in the summer. For optimum stands, it should be broadcast onto freshly exposed mud flats less than 12 hours following water removal. Commonly, wetlands are drawn down in stages, so when planting Japanese millet, it should be broadcast each day following a drawdown. Alternatively, dry mud flats can be disked, broadcast with Japanese millet, and harrowed to develop stands when rainfall or irrigation is available soon after planting to germinate and grow millet. Japanese millet requires between 60-110 days (depending upon strain and weather) to produce mature seed, so it is best to plant around 90 days prior to flooding. If a wetland depends on rainfall to flood it, time the maturation date before significant fall precipitation normally occurs. Japanese millet often re-establishes during future years in areas where it was previously grown when it is allowed to mature and produce seed, and the wetland is drawn down during spring to stimulate vol-