



Figure 10. When conducting growing-season burns, do not expect fast-moving fires with tall flames because they will normally not occur. In fact, the flames are rarely taller than the surrounding vegetation and the headfire commonly moves at the rate of a dormant season backfire. Example: upper left dormant season backfire, upper right growing-season backfire, lower left dormant season headfire, lower right growing-season headfire. (Photos Stephen Winter-UR, LR J. Weir-UL, LL).

other woody plants can still be met with growing-season fire.

Spotfires and Escapes

Spotfires and escapes are usually not a significant problem while burning in the growing season. This is due in part to the amount of green growing vegetation that reduces the ignition probability of embers and reduces the rate of fire spread. Most of the time in the growing season, the relative humidity is higher because of the transpiration of the growing plants and increased southerly wind flows bringing in moisture from the Gulf of Mexico. The relative humidity is normally higher than it is during the dormant season, thus reducing the probability of spotfires.¹⁷ If an escape occurs, it is normally a slow moving fire that can be quickly extinguished, assuming the fire crew is adequately equipped and manned. This is under “normal” growing-season burn conditions, but we can also have extreme fire behavior if the weather has been dry or under drought conditions. Safety and care should be exercised at all times when conducting growing-season burns.



Figure 11. Growing-season fires still impact woody plants in much the same way dormant-season fires do. While dormant season fires have taller flame lengths and faster rates of spread, growing-season fires still top kill woody plants. This is due to the residence time, or how long the fire burns in a given area. The intensity of fire may be less, but the duration of heat from the growing-season fire is longer. (Photo J. Weir)