

Figure 8 Scent Trails  
By Myles Keller

Some bow hunters complain of not having close enough shot opportunities at bucks. Many see plenty of deer but just can't get them "on their doorstep." One of my favorite tactics to lure in bucks close is by leading them with a scent trail. If you can fool their unbelievable sense of smell, you've got it made.

To begin, when using scent in any way for whitetail, you must keep foreign odors out of the picture. Scent Killer®, rubber boots and rubber gloves will help you to reduce **scent transfer**. You want to leave the good smell, not a danger smell.

We have many different tools to create scent trails with; hunters might use boot-pads, drag-rags or atomizers. My preferred way of leaving a trail is



with a device called a Wildlife Research Center® Pro-Drag®. It is a super big seven inch



scent drag made from a super absorbent synthetic felt. I can tie the included string to a stick found in the area. This way I'm able to drag the scent trail off of the exact path my feet are leaving. Obviously, in thick brush or heavy timber you can't drag the trail off to one side, but whenever possible this method will leave the cleanest, most pristine scent trail possible.

When leaving a scent trail in a straight line, you've

only got a fifty-fifty chance the buck will follow your trail in your direction. Since they're looking for the "goodies" at the end of the trail, even if they do follow it in the wrong direction when they get to where you started the trail and they don't find what they're looking for, many times they'll follow it back in your direction.

A cure-all for this problem might be a figure 8 scent trail. Create your scent trail in a figure 8 and place yourself downwind of the intersection of the 8. This way regardless of where the buck cuts the trail or which way he follows it, eventually he'll wind up in front of you.

During early season my favorite scent to use is Trail's End® #307® or Hot Musk®. Closer to the rut I like to use Special Golden Estrus® or Excite®. Just think about what that specific buck wants at that specific time of year. You need to give them a reason to follow your trail.

Obviously, every situation is different. Sometimes this tactic may require more commotion or scent transfer

then is wise to perform. However, this can also be a great way to bring bucks in close enough for an easy archery shot.

