

MAKING THE PERFECT MOCK SCRAPE



PICKING THE SPOT



Look for pinch points – Narrow corridors of cover between bedding and feeding areas to set up your scrape. Good scrape location takes into consideration prevailing winds, likely stand locations, and a good overhanging branch.

TOOLS FOR THE JOB

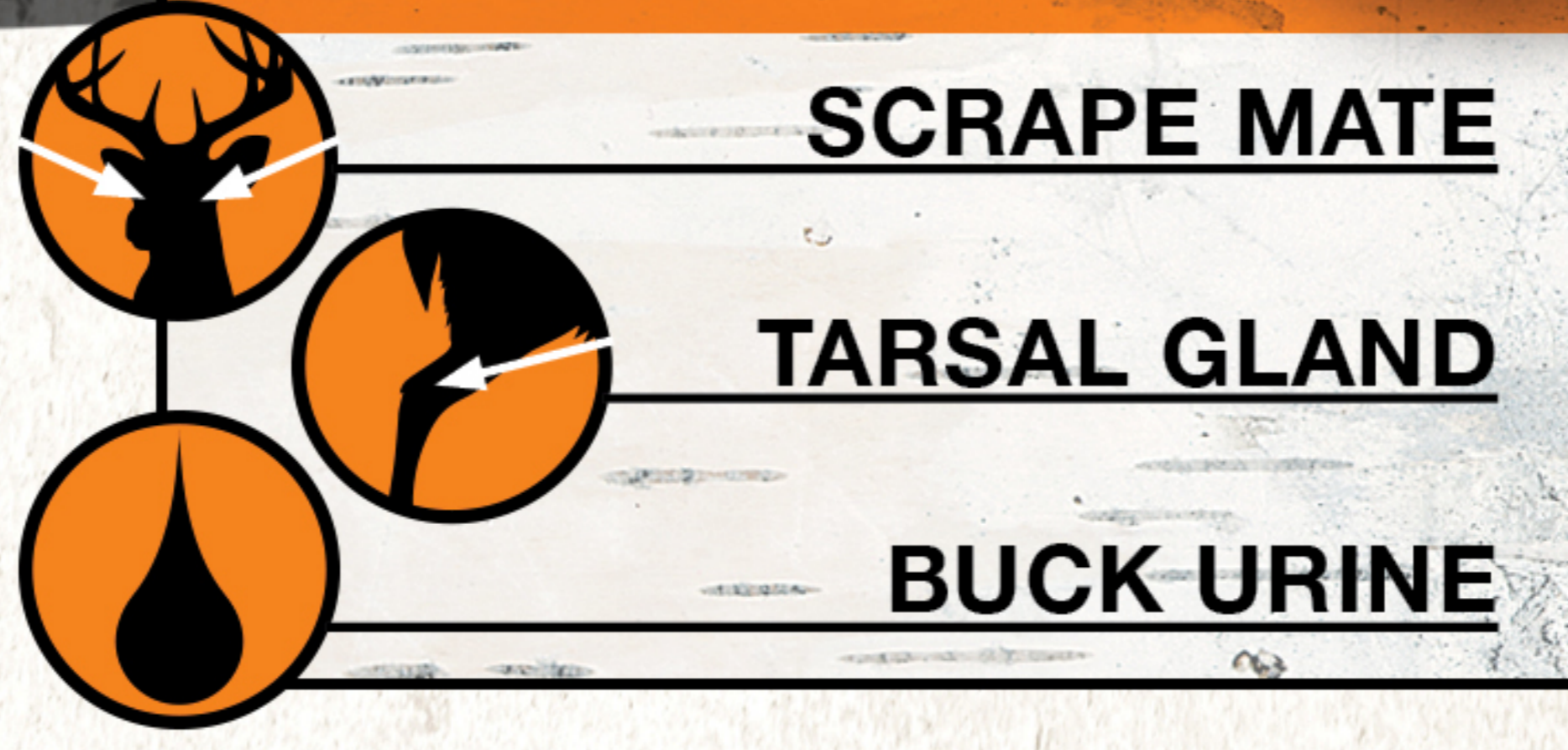


A DE-SCENTED 3-TINED HAND GARDEN TOOL

SCENTS REPLICATING ODORS OF A DEER'S PREORBITAL AND TARSAL GLANDS, PLUS DEER URINE



SCENT GUIDE



SCENT-FREE RUBBER GLOVES AND BOOTS FOR MAKING AND MAINTAINING MOCK SCRAPES

(MANY HUNTERS OPT FOR FULL-OUT SCENT CONTAINMENT GEAR)



CREATING THE SCRAPE

1 SCRAPE LEAVES AND GROUND



Use the garden tool to scrape a circle, approximately 3 feet across, in the leaves and ground cover immediately under the selected licking branch. Dig an inch or two into the soil to loosen it up. Imagine a buck cutting into the dirt with his sharp hooves.

2 DIP BRANCH IN SCENT

Dip pre-orbital scent on the end of the overhanging branch. Put ample deer urine on the scrape itself. In early season, use tarsal scent sparingly, but as the rut gets closer, increase the amount of tarsal scent. During the rut tarsal scent and urine should dominate the scent.



3 DRIP SCENT ON GROUND



Place one or more trail cameras to monitor your mock scrape. Secure the cameras and camouflage them as appropriate to the area you're hunting – they are tempting targets on heavily trafficked public ground.



Position your stand(s) to take advantage of the prevailing winds and the deer activity you observe on camera. Be sure to keep scent and disturbance to a minimum when setting stands and monitoring the scrape. Clean out the scrape and reapply scents as weather and deer activity dictate. Keep in mind the progression of the season and proportion your scents accordingly.

HUNT

Consider carefully when and how you hunt the scrape. Only when the wind and approach conditions are exactly right should you hunt a particular scrape. You don't want to make your investment of time and energy all for naught by alerting deer to your presence.



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