



PLANTATION ESTABLISHMENT TIMETABLE

These basic guidelines for successful establishment of radiata pine on farmland are only a guide. Not all operations may be necessary and on some sites specialised operations are required. Like any agricultural enterprise it is wise to prepare a **simple management plan** considering market location, product requirements, wood prices and plantation management options. Carefully select sites to ensure reasonable tree growth and economical harvesting. Consider estimated returns on your investment. If in doubt, seek professional advice from Private Forests Tasmania.

TIMING	OPERATION	DETAILS
October	Order Plants	Advance order plants from a reputable nursery. Ensure plants are grown to industry standards and are from a tree breeding program. Buy the best quality you can afford.
January / May	Site clearing / fire line construction	On scrubland or logged sites heap or rake logging slash into rows or heaps and burn. The site needs to be cleared for cultivation and grass control operations unless spot cultivation is to be used.
Spring / Summer	Remove pasture	Graze out, burn or spray to remove pasture to help eradicate weeds and grasses.
January / March	Deep Rip	On some soils ripping shatters sub-soils and can result in both better survival and initial tree growth. Available soil moisture and rooting depth may be increased and drainage may be improved. Ripping is not essential on deep sandy soils. Deep rip planting lines when soils are dry with a winged ripper and rip on the contour if erosion is likely.
February / April	Mound Plough	Cultivate top soil into mounds over rip lines, often in conjunction with deep ripping. Some soils may need to be disced beforehand. Mounding aids tree planting and ensures faster tree growth because the soil warms earlier and more soil is available for roots to exploit.
Autumn & Spring	Weed Control	Eradicate weeds and grasses up to the first 2 years after planting. This may need to be done several times. If weeds and grasses are not eradicated they will out compete tree seedlings for soil moisture, nutrients and light and severely reduce survival and growth of young trees. Apply herbicide in spots, strips or over the whole area. Use knockdown and/or residual herbicides, alone or in combination.

As needed (up to 2 years after planting)	Game Control	Before and after planting reduce populations of vermin to levels at which tree survival and growth are not significantly affected.
Before planting	Plant Pick-up	Pick up plants from nursery, deliver to site and start planting.
June – September	Planting	Plant in winter on cool, overcast, wind free days when plants are dormant and soils are moist to minimise "transplanting shock". Keep plants moist at all times.
Before planting	Fencing	Ensure fences will protect seedlings from browsing by livestock.
Within 4 weeks of first planting	Replanting	Fill in gaps or losses in the first season or next season. Identify the reason for failures and overcome if possible.
When plants begin to grow	Fertilising	Apply fertiliser to meet seedling requirements on one or several occasions in the first to third year after planting.
Before summer each year	Fire-breaks	Maintain continuous bare earth fire-breaks.
Late summer and thereafter	Foliage Analysis	Check for nutrient deficiencies if plants show abnormal growth or discoloration. Laboratory analysis will quantify the nutrient(s) required to be applied.



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