

SITE PREPARATION

Good site preparation is essential for good tree establishment and growth. This quick reference information sheet describes a series of steps for good site preparation on agricultural land. This information sheet is not a substitute for site specific advice.

It is essential plants are weed-free for at least the first growing season.



Pre-Cultivation Weed Control

- Plan the spraying operation well ahead of time.
- Identifying your weeds.
- Knock down weeds. (Spring prior to planting is the ideal time to spray.)
- Select the appropriate herbicide with advice from an authorised supplier.



Cultivation Equipment

- After spraying and before ploughing, allow time for sprayed weeds to die and break down.
- Plough when soils are dry.
- Some agricultural soils are compacted and require ripping.
- Shallow, hard pans may be ripped prior to mounding. A second pass with the mould plough or smudger (as shown in photo c), can improve tilth.
- Small-scale operations on agricultural land can be prepared using small tractor-drawn equipment (Eg: plough illustrated in photo b, can be drawn by 85-100 hp tractor, and is available for hire from Private Forests Tasmania.)
- Larger scale and ex-forest sites may require industrial scale equipment.



Planting Bed Preparation

Good soil tilth means:

- Greater herbicide effectiveness.
- Easier, quicker, cheaper planting.
- Higher plant survival rates.
- Better tree growth rates.



Post-Cultivation Weed Control

Prior to planting (i.e. 3-4 weeks), do the following:

- Knock down any newly germinated weeds.
- Apply recommended residual herbicides to prevent further weed germination.

NOTE: Using Herbicides

- **Herbicides need moist soil to be activated.**
- **Always read and follow the label instructions.**
- **Check correct herbicide selection with an authorised supplier.**
- **Residual herbicides may be tank mixed with a knock down herbicide.**

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