

Develop an establishment plan.

Now that you have decided on the size and location of the plantation, you will need to set up an establishment plan.



Establishment can take 12 to 18 months. Key planning actions include the following steps:

Step 1 – Check site quality

1

- Have you got the right site? [Go here](#) for a checklist on what to take into account for the chosen site in terms of temperature, available moisture and nutrients, and weeds
- Check soil suitability. Dig a hole (at least 50cm deep) to look at the soil structure. Make a note of the amount of silt, sand and clay. Are there a lot of rocks? Can you see evidence of compacted layers and hard pans? Check the drainage and general soil health

... Is your site right?

Check if your site has the minimum requirements to grow trees commercially:

- Mean annual rainfall greater than 800mm
 - Less than 800m above sea level
 - Soils deeper than 65cm
 - No frost hollows or waterlogged areas
- general soil health

Fencing is critical to keeping livestock and browsing animals out of the plantation

Step 2 – Select the species and order the plants

2

- Plant stock needs to be ordered 9-12 months in advance
- Make sure the stock you are ordering has been grown to quality standard
- Carefully select the tree species to match your soil and temperature conditions [here](#)
- See the full list of plants suited to Tasmania [here](#)

Step 3 – Prepare the site

3

- Clear the site, either mechanically, by hand or monitored burning
- When the soil is dry (usually summer), deep-rip planting lines with a winged ripper to shatter heavier sub soils to help improve tree growth
- Mounding top-soil over the ripline can help with grass control and conserving moisture
- Allow time for the soil to settle
- Once the ground preparation has been done, it's time to fence

Steps cont'd

Step 4 – Clear the weeds

4

- Develop a weed strategy from the get-go. Control of grasses and weeds is essential in the first two years of planting
- Use a combination of knockdown and residual herbicides before planting, and then after planting to control emerging weeds
- Ensure there is a one-metre radius around each tree that is completely free of weeds and grass. This radius needs to be clear for at least the first two years after planting
- Find out more information on weed management [here](#)

... Did you know?

Grass competition is responsible for the failure of more farm plantations than any other cause



Step 5 – Vermin control

5

- Fencing is essential to keep out browsing vermin
- Bait, fumigation or shooting may be required before planting
- Follow-up control is essential for survival of the young plants



Develop an establishment plan

Hobart
30 Patrick Street
Hobart 7000

Launceston
State Government Offices
171 Westbury Road
Prospect 7250
PO Box 180
Kings Meadows 7249

Burnie
State Growth Offices
The Harris Building
Level 2, 49 Cattley Street
PO Box 68
Burnie 7320

Disclaimer:
This information has been prepared by Private Forests Tasmania (PFT). Every reasonable endeavour has been used to ensure that the material was accurate at the time of publication. No representation or warranty is made by PFT for the accuracy, completeness, or relevance of such information to the user's purpose. You agree and accept that any use of the information is entirely at your own risk. PFT, the Crown, its officers, employees and agents do not accept any liability howsoever arising (including, without limitation, negligence) for any loss in connection with or arising out of any use of or reliance upon the information. Anyone considering any investment project should seek independent professional advice on the particular matter before making a decision. This document is protected by the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968 (Cw'lth).



Next steps



Arrange an appointment

Arrange an appointment with a private forester to talk about what you want to achieve from growing trees on your property. See if a consultant can come and assess your land and find out what is possible

contact@treealliance.com.au



Call the helpline

Call the helpline with any questions

Tel: 1300 661 009



Join the online community

Join our private Facebook group, the Growing the Future Online Community. Find out what other farmers are doing, chat to an expert, ask questions and share ideas.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/596397397623294>

