Blackwood

and other cabinet timbers

Info Sheet No. 4 – Labour Estimates

Private Forests Tasmania

This series on Blackwood and other cabinet timbers has four parts. Each part can be read individually or as part of the series.

1. Overview
2. Establishment
3. Management
4. **Labour Estimates**

LABOUR ESTIMATES

The following labour estimates are based upon establishment and management of group planting regime: 200 blackwood groups/ha with 4 trees/group (800 blackwood/ha) nurse crop density of 600 *E. nitens* trees/ha.

Activity	Year	Timing	Labour (Hours/ha)
Order Seedlings	-1	Spring	-
Weed Control (1)	-1	Summer	0-5
Plantation Layout	-1	Autumn	1-3
Weed Control (2)	-1	Autumn	8-12
Fencing (browsing control)	-1	Autumn	10-20
Planting	0	Winter	20-25
Fertilising	0	Spring	4-5
Weed Control (3)	0	Summer	12-18
TOTAL - Establishment			**63 - 88**
***Management** (Pruning, Thinning)*			
Form Pruning	2-8	Spring	45-60
Clearwood Pruning	4-10		30-40
Thinning (Blackwood)	4-10		9-12
Thinning (nurse crop)	4-10		18-24
TOTAL - Management			**102-136**
TOTAL - Establishment & Management			**161-219**

Most operations can be undertaken by landowners with basic training in silvicultural techniques.

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Important Note: Estimates are a guide only and may vary depending upon a number of factors.

1. Labour (hours/ha) is estimated time required for landowners to undertake silvicultural operations and will vary between landowners, depending upon experience and site conditions. Fencing (if required) is usually the greatest cost associated with establishment and can vary considerably depending upon type of fence, terrain and area to perimeter ratio. Conducted 6-12 months prior to planting to control woody weeds (not required on all sites).
2. Marking of planting lines/groups (where cultivation is not undertaken).
3. Knockdown and residual herbicides applied to planting areas using strip or spot application, depending upon location and conditions.
4. Cost and labour requirements associated with fencing can vary considerably, depending upon browsing animals to be excluded, fence construction, terrain and perimeter to area ratio.
5. The above table assumes small areas planted without cultivation with a planting rate based upon 60 seedlings planted/hour.
6. The above table assumes fertilising the Blackwood only @ ~180 seedlings/hour.
7. The above table assumes post-planting release spraying ~9 months after weed control (2). Labour rate based upon ~90 seedlings released/hour.

NB - Cost and labour estimates for other regimes are likely to be less than group planting with a high-density nurse crop, particularly when established without a nurse crop. At this stage, it is unknown what regime is most appropriate. Other regimes, while incurring lower costs for activities such as planting and thinning, may incur higher costs associated with form pruning.

Contractors can be contracted to undertake silvicultural work, costs will vary from site to site and quotes should be obtained and job specifications agreed before any work commencing.

Costs such as Forest Practice Plans tend to have fixed costs rather than being dependent upon the area established.

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