

Thinning.

THINNING A PRUNED PLANTATION

Pruning and thinning need to coincide. [Go here](#) to find out more about a pruning regimen. The table below shows the indicative ages and stand conditions for thinning in a pruning regimen on high-quality sites.

| Thin at age (years) | Stand Conditions | Operation |
|---------------------|--|--|
| 5 to 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 800-1,200 trees/ha • 250 pruned trees/ha • DBHob of pruned trees 11-13cm • Height of tallest trees greater than 12m | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selectively thin to waste (using chainsaw or chemical injection) trees competing with the pruned trees and suppressed stems. • Retain 750 trees/ha including 150-250 pruned trees/ha. |
| 10 to 15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing volume 150-300m³/ha | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercially thin 90-180m³/ha for poles or pulpwood. Retain 150-250 pruned trees only. |
| 35 to 50 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average DBHob 45-60cm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearfall for solid wood products. |

The schedule above includes one non-commercial and one commercial thinning. The non-commercial thinning removes the large competitors adjacent to trees selected for pruning and allows more even spacing between the trees. Any poorly formed trees should be thinned to waste. The commercial thinning concentrates the returns in one operation.

Alternatively, you could conduct one non-commercial thinning and two commercial thinnings – one at 10-12 years and the other about 20 years. An advantage of two thinnings is that the stand is opened up gradually on each occasion and is therefore less prone to windthrow. Harvest more trees at the first thinning as windthrow increases as the trees get taller.

THINNING IN NATIVE FOREST

The table below provides the indicative ages and criteria for thinning in native forest.

| Thin at age (years) | Type of thinning | Stand Conditions | Operation |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|
| 5 to 15 | Early age spacing DBHob <20cm | >2,500 trees/ha | Selectively thin to 800-1,100 trees/ha co-dominant and dominant trees |
| 15 to 25 | Mid-age spacing | >1,500 trees/ha DBHob >5 to <30cm | Selectively thin to 500-700 trees/ha co-dominant and dominant trees |
| 25 to 40 | Commercial thinning | >500 trees/ha DBHob 20-25cm to >40cm | Selectively thin to 100-250 trees/ha |
| > 40 | Mature age commercial thinning | >100 trees/ha DBHob 30-40cm to >40cm | Selectively thin to 90-110 trees/ha |

Following the above schedule will reduce tree stocking without inducing regeneration. Either early age or mid-age spacing is applied to overstocked stands. These are non-commercial.

One or two commercial thinnings are to be carried out at 25 to 40 years or greater than 40 years.

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