

Why choose radiata pine?

Right tree, right place -
it could be perfect for you

Radiata pine (*Pinus radiata*) is one of the most widely grown plantation species in Australia — and for good reason. It has become the most widely planted softwood species in the Southern Hemisphere.

Radiata pine produces a softwood that's easy to work with, yet strong and reliable. It's used for construction, furniture, paper and pulp, packaging and pallets. It is a high-performing, flexible, and sustainable plantation species for large-scale growers and small landholders looking to diversify income. When managed well it contributes to carbon capture, soil conservation and water quality protection. In Australia, it underpins a significant part of the timber industry.

Introduction

Radiata pine is a common plantation species grown in Tasmania with about 80,000 hectares of plantations in private ownership.

It is the most widely planted softwood plantation species in the southern hemisphere and timber products derived from the tree are well established in international markets.

Radiata pine grows quickly compared to many native and exotic species.

On suitable sites, it can reach harvestable size within 25 to 30 years, making it ideal for commercial forestry.

Its fast growth means more timber in less time, increasing productivity and profitability.

It is well suited to Tasmanian conditions as a plantation species:

- Relatively free from natural pests and diseases;
- Easy to grow with readily available information and experience amongst forestry professionals and suppliers;
- Rapid growth rate over a range of site qualities particularly lower quality sites (drier and low nutrition);

- Extensive breeding and improvement with readily available improved genetic seed and plants;
- Well established markets for timber products from posts, sawn timber, export logs, to woodchips; and
- A permissible species under the Carbon Farming Initiative - Plantation Forestry to generate Australian Carbon Credit Units.

Pine are also the perfect species for shelterbelts to help protect farms from heat, rain and wind - reducing stress on animals and crops.

By planting trees for shelter, you can boost your farm's productivity in many ways:

- Animals – shelter reduces livestock mortality and improves growth rates
- Crops – shelter reduces damage to crops, improves soil fertility and extends growing seasons
- Water – shelter reduces evaporation and improves irrigator efficiency in paddocks
- Farm – shelter protects buildings and work areas and helps to control fire.



Pine myths

Myth	Explained
Pines are poor for biodiversity.	Radiata pine provides similar benefits to other monoculture plantations. They can provide shade and shelter and wildlife habitat along with harvestable products. The thick canopies of radiata pine plantations can be beneficial for weed control once established.
Pines have a heavy demand for nutrients.	With proper management including reduced or no burning techniques when replanting, there is little evidence that radiata pine is more demanding than other commonly planted species.
Pines are a weed.	Radiata pine is known to be invasive into open and dry eucalypt forests, woodland and heath environments. Radiata pine seed is readily dispersed by wind and monitoring of surrounding vulnerable native vegetation for wilding establishment and control is best management.

Selecting a species is about the right tree for the right place, and radiata pine might be the right tree for your situation.



Next Step

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