



ON FARM TIMBER PRODUCTION

This pamphlet is not designed to give you all the information you require to evaluate the feasibility of a farm timber production project but rather to outline some of the issues you need to consider.

Please talk to us if you would like more information, a site visitor preparation and planting assistance.

Agroforestry - is a combination of agricultural activities and the growing of trees for a financial return. Australia is one of a few countries capable of increasing its timber harvest from land. As with all ventures there are risks. Do your market research, select the species and trial them. Meredith Nursery is part of the "Master tree Growers Group" and we are happy to advise on all aspects of farm forestry.

Options for production - speciality timbers, sawn timber for boards etc, farm timber for poles and posts, wood chips or firewood. Some market sectors such as pulp & woodchips, are controlled by large corporations so you need to ensure they will take the end product. Speciality timbers and timber for firewood are more in the growers control. Decide on the market and evaluate your potential return. You could, for instance, combine the speciality and firewood sectors.

Speciality timbers can return from \$40-\$100 cub.m. on the stump or upto \$2500 dressed. Firewood varies from \$8 to \$25/cub.m. on the stump to \$65/cub.m. cut and dried Sawn logs - require a clear length of 5m plus with a diameter of not less than 30cm.

Firewood requires the production of a recognised species and to maximise returns cutting and drying may be undertaken by yourself.

Farm timber requires less length but may require older trees for higher durability

Wood chip and pulp wood is best done on contract to a major company in that market.

Tree management may involve pruning and thinning. These tasks play a major role in determining the end product and its return. Ensure that you are prepared to commit to the on going maintenance. Pruning aims at establishing a clear, knot free wood of at least 6m. Pruning should be done before the stem diameter is 10cm.

Harvesting is an important time and may involve considerable outlay before a return is seen. Make sure harvesting costs are minimised by good road access and quality stands of well managed timber.

Species selection depends on your needs and soil etc. but the following are some of the more popular.

Eucalyptus - *globulus* (pulp/woodchips), *nitens* (pulp, sawtog), *maculata* (sawlog, furniture, fuel), *saligna* (sawlogs), flooring, *timber artifacts*), *occidentalis* (fuel, timber products, artifacts), *grandis* (sawlogs), *cladocalyx* (fuel, artifacts), *sideroxydon* (durable post), *camaldulensis* (fuel, artifacts, furniture)

Acacia - *melanoxydon* (quality timber), *mearnsii* (fuel, artifacts)

Pinus - radiata (sawlogs, building, furniture, woodchips)

Most initial planting is done on well prepared ground (ripped and mounded) on a 3m X 3m grid (1100 stems per hectare) and then thinned initially to approx. 750 sph and finally to 400 sph. This final number depends on the several factors. Thinning can occur from 4 years to 10 years depending on growth rate etc. Thinning too early may reduce the growth: rate and too late may result in weak trees with small diameter stems. By monitoring the plantation the correct time for thinning can be determined.

The work you do now will more than pay for itself in the end. Use best practice and only plant quality trees from a reputable grower such as Meredith Nursery.

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Nursery Services & Products

The Nursery is a member of the Nursery Industry Association and The Master Tree Growers Group.



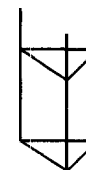
We offer -

* **On-site consultations**, designs, reports and or just a verbal recommendation on site. Its up to you.

* **A planting service**, this can be tailored to your needs. We can do the lot or just the portion you select. Maintenance agreements are also available

* **A range of ancillary products**, to assist in your planting and growing. We manufacture our own tree guard and guarantee its quality.

Items available include:



- * Tree guards & stakes
- * Stake setter - easy installation of stakes
- * Stake quivers to carry stakes more easily
- * Hamilton tree planters
- * Potipuki tree planters
- * Agriform fertilizer tablets - lasts 1 year
- * Mulch mats

We welcome all enquiries no matter how large or small.

