



SOUTHERN WOODS PLANT NURSERY



Main South Road, Templeton,
Ph 0800 800 352
info@southernwoods.co.nz

Christchurch 8441
Fax 347 9223
www.southernwoods.co.nz

Info 17: PLANTING GUIDE

- Plan your planting carefully. Seek advice from Forest Consultants, Ministry of Forestry, Regional Councils or Southern Woods personnel.
- Order your tree stocks early to avoid disappointment.
- Rip the planting lines to at least 30cm in late summer or autumn to ease planting and early root development, and to break up any impervious soil layers. DO NOT rip wet soil. DO NOT leave the rip line open – run back over it with the tractor wheel.
- Secure the site from stock and pests. ie fencing, control of rabbits, hares and possums.
- Eliminate competing weeds by removal, shallow cultivation, or spraying with a glyphosate-based herbicide such as 'Roundup'. Spraying before and after planting will differ with individual species and sites – SEEK ADVICE if you are unsure. A range of herbicides are available at Southern Woods Nursery.
- Other preparations may include irrigation setup (shelter belts) and soil tests (forest blocks).

NOTE: Ask for a current list of forestry consultants and contractors for your area.

TIMING OF PLANTING

- Container trees may be planted year-round on moist sites, or where irrigation is available. However, on most South Island sites trees should be planted from April to October. Container trees outperform bare-root trees under dry planting conditions or where out-of-season droughts occur.
- Bare-root trees should be planted in winter.

CARE OF TREE STOCKS PRIOR TO PLANTING

- Roots must be kept moist at all times.
- Container trees in cartons are packed at the nursery and may be stored for up to 7 days provided they are kept cool and moist. NEVER stand in direct sunlight. ALWAYS plant as soon as possible as foliage will soften in the carton.
- Trees in containers or planter bags may be kept for long periods provided the potting mix is kept moist.

- Bare-rooted trees in cartons are packed at the nursery and may be stored for up to 4 days provided they are kept cool and moist. NEVER stand in direct sunlight. ALWAYS plant as soon as possible, as foliage will soften in the carton.
- Bare-root trees in bundles (poplars, willows and alders) may be held for several weeks in water or heeled into wet sawdust or soil).
- Cool storage is available for packed trees.

PRIOR TO PLANTING

Improve the result and make the planting operation easier – ensure you have the following:

- A GOOD BREAKFAST!
- A planting frame for carrying the NZ Standard DL55 forestry carton as used by Southern Woods for packing volume lots. These may be purchased or hired.
- A tree planting spade or a sturdy garden spade.
- Grotab™ slow release fertilizer tablets may be placed into the planting hole and will provide the tree with a significant advantage for up to two years without providing the advantage to weeds! DO NOT use soluble fertilisers at planting.
- Liquid Shotgun pest repellent should be applied immediately after planting. This egg-based formula, developed by the Forest Research Institute, has been proven to significantly reduce damage to young trees from rabbits, hares and possums.
- Tubex and KBC tree shelters provide protections from stock, animal pests, spray damage and wind, as well as forming a beneficial micro-climate around the tree.

PLANTING

- Ensure the roots are kept moist.
- Don't be concerned about planting some of the foliage, as deep planting ensures wind stability and positions the roots in moister soil. Deep planting is critical for *Pinus radiata* cuttings.
- Scrape off soil where residual herbicides have been applied.
- Digging the holes first, filling with water and allowing to drain away prior to planting will greatly enhance survival under dry conditions.

Side-Slit or Eco-Pot

Remove the tree and intact root plug from the container, ecopot matrix, or carton. DO NOT disturb the root plug. Cover the top of the plug with at least 25 mm (1") of soil.

Planter Bag

Remove from plastic bag. Ensure any circulating roots are teased out straight and removed. Plant as above.

Bare Root

Ensure roots are well spread and orientated downwards.

POST PLANTING

- Water the trees during dry spells (where practicable).
- Ensure weeds are kept under control by either mulching, lightly cultivating or spraying. Mulching is labour-intensive, but will conserve soil moisture, improve the soil structure and biological activity, and ultimately provide nutrients to the tree. DO NOT place mulch close to stem. DO use at least 100mm (4") of mulch. Bales of straw provide useful wind-breaks and mulch material for later on. Spraying should be carried out in early spring before weeds get away.
- Soluble fertilisers may be applied 6-8 weeks after planting, at a point 15-20cm away from the tree.
- Boron is deficient in most South Island soils, and this deficiency is enhanced by dry Canterbury conditions. Boron deficiency in *Pinus radiata* will lead to inferior timber quality, growth deformities and terminal die-back. Other species are also likely to be deficient. Boron in the form of 'Ulexite' is recommended – see us for supply. A teaspoon per tree at age three years is usually sufficient. Specific requirements can be ascertained by needle testing.
- Stock and pests should continue to be kept away. Re-apply Liquid Shotgun rabbit, hare and possum repellent if required. However, using a real shotgun is more permanent!
- Diseases and pests may affect your trees. Tree stress is a major cause of severe attacks – minimise by carefully choosing the tree for the site, and judicious use of fertiliser and water. If you have a problem, phone your local Ministry of Forestry health office or Southern Woods personnel.
- Ensure that any blanks are filled the following season.

HAPPY PLANTING!!