

How to make even more money second time round!

You've harvested your woodlot, made a tidy profit and are now thinking, "So, what's next?" If you're considering replanting then you could be making a very financially wise decision.

Considering replanting your forest can actually be a very straightforward decision. This is because the first rotation will have provided the forest owner with knowledge of the site's physical quality and ability to grow a high quality forest – one that can be harvested and marketed for a healthy profit. And, the good news is, the opportunity exists to do significantly better from the second rotation.

This is due to the following factors:

- Access to the site will be greatly improved following the harvesting. This will lead to cost savings in forest operations such as planting, releasing, pruning and thinning.
- The costs of re-establishing and managing the second rotation relative to the first rotation will be reduced. This is due to improvements in land preparation techniques (better and cheaper weed control chemicals) and better establishment and survival rates. This all leads to labour cost efficiencies.
- Planting genetically improved treestocks will give more log volume from the site. Genetically improved treestocks will also provide trees with improved form, lighter branching and better wood properties. This all translates to higher growth, yields and value at maturity.

What treestocks?

Replanting a forest is a major investment decision and, as such, decisions regarding your choice of planting stock should be given high priority.

Most forest growers are now opting to replant with genetically improved trees – this option would not have been available when most woodlots were first established.

A well-designed re-establishment programme, with genetically improved treestocks, can provide many advantages:

- Better survival and establishment
- Improved volume growth
- Improved form, leading to increased numbers of acceptable stems and lower tending costs
- Improved log and wood properties such as higher wood density, greater stiffness and lower incidence of spiral grain.

PF Olsen – as foundation members of the Radiata Pine Breeding Research Co-operative – has access to the latest breeding value information and research, and to the current best germplasm.

PF Olsen is the best placed forestry consultant and manager to offer up-to-the-minute advice on the best planting stock to meet client needs, site preparation, tending and end product or market requirements.

Why wouldn't you replant?

It is possible that during the first rotation an alternative higher value land use may have arisen. In this case the landowner would be likely to change the land's use to something more suitable.

Landowners need to be fully aware of the new Emissions Trading Scheme rules before they make this decision.

What if I've harvested out of replanting season?

Traditionally, harvested cutover sites that are not ready for replanting by August each year would be left unplanted until the following winter.

PF Olsen's experience with "containerised" stock is that harvested cutover sites can be successfully re-established up to the end of November and even up to Christmas. For more information on this, please contact PF Olsen.

How you can profit from replanting

In order to do better from the second rotation it will be important to avoid any of the mistakes of the first rotation. The following check list will help woodlot owners get the most out of their forest investment.

- Have a Management Plan to set out objectives and operations to re-establish and manage your forest.
- Select and purchase the treestocks best suited to your site and management objectives.
- Ensure trees get a good start through thorough site preparation. This includes controlling weeds and cultivating any land that may have been compacted during the harvesting operations.
- Good planting followed by good weed control.

Young pines are vulnerable for the first year and can easily be smothered. Good weed control also affects seedlings' long-term performance.

- Control pests and keep stock out.
- Follow a tending regime of thinning and pruning best suited to your site and management objectives.

