

Private Forests Tasmania

Farm Forestry Series - Blackwood



This series on Blackwood Farm Forestry has five parts. Each part can be read individually or as part of the series.

1. Overview
2. Establishment
3. Pruning Regime
4. Thinning Regime
5. Cost and Labour Estimates

COST AND LABOUR ESTIMATES

The following cost and labour estimates are based upon establishment and management of a 1 hectare site with the following group planting regime:

200 Blackwood groups/ha with 4 trees/group (800 Blackwood/ ha)
High nurse crop density of 600 *E.nitens*/ha.

Activity	Year	Month(s)	Cost (\$)	Labour (hrs)
<i>Establishment (Seedlings, planting, weed control & browsing control)</i>				
Order Seedlings ¹	-1	Spring	460	-
Weed Control (1) ²	-1	Summer	0-200	0-5
Plantation Layout ³	-1	Autumn	20-60	1-3
Weed Control (2) ⁴	-1	Autumn	150-250	8-12
Fencing (browsing control) ⁵	-1	Autumn	1000-2000	10-20
Planting ⁶	0	Winter	250-300	20-25
Fertilising ⁷	0	Spring	100-150	4-5
Weed Control (3) ⁸	0	Summer	150-200	12-18
TOTAL - Establishment (\$11-18/crop tree)			2130 - 3620	63 - 88
<i>Management (Pruning, Thinning)</i>				
Form Pruning ⁹	2-8	Spring	900-1200	45-60
Clearwood Pruning ¹⁰	4-10		600-800	30-40
Thinning (Blackwood) ¹¹	4-10		180-240	9-12
Thinning (nurse crop) ¹²	4-10		360-480	18-24
TOTAL - Management (\$10-14/crop tree)			2040-2720	102-136
TOTAL - Establishment & Management (\$21-32/crop tree)			4170 - 6340	161-219

Virtually all operations can be undertaken by landowners with basic training in establishment and management of farm forestry.

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Important Note: Estimates are a guide only and may vary depending upon a number of factors. Time required for silvicultural operations will vary between landowners, depending upon experience and site conditions. Cost estimates are based upon a labour rate of \$20/hour. Other management costs such as Pruned Stand Certification (if undertaken) can vary considerably, depending on the area established. Browsing control (fencing) is the greatest cost associated with establishment.

1. 800 Blackwood @ \$0.35 each and 600 *E.nitens* @ \$0.30 each.
2. Conducted 6-12 months prior to planting to control woody weeds (not required on all sites).
3. Marking of planting lines/groups (where cultivation is not undertaken).
4. Knockdown and residual herbicides applied to planting areas using strip or spot application, depending upon location and conditions.
5. Cost and labour requirements associated with fencing can vary considerably, depending upon browsing animals to be excluded, fence construction, terrain and perimeter to area ratio.
6. Small areas planted without cultivation with a planting rate based upon 60 seedlings planted/hour.
7. Fertilising the Blackwood only @ ~180 seedlings/hour.
8. Post-planting release spraying ~9 months after weed control (2). Labour rate based upon ~90 seedlings released/hour.
9. Estimate of \$900-1200/ha from age 2-8.
10. Estimate of \$600-800/ha from age 2-10.
- 11 & 12 Thinning estimates based upon the following:
 - 1st Thinning 200 nurse crop trees stem injected (3-4 hours labour)
 - 2nd Thinning 400 nurse crop trees felled manually (8-10 hours labour)
200 Blackwood felled manually (3-4 hours labour)
 - 3rd Thinning 100 nurse crop trees stem injected (2-3 hours labour)
200 Blackwood felled manually (3-4 hours labour)
 - 4th Thinning 200 nurse crop trees felled manually (5-7 hours labour)
200 Blackwood felled manually (3-4 hours labour)
- Thinning (Total) Nurse crop (18-24 hours labour)
Blackwood (9-12 hours labour)

NB Cost and labour estimates for other regimes are likely to be less than group planting with a high density nurse crop, particularly when established without a nurse crop. At this stage, it is unknown what regime is most appropriate. Other regimes, while incurring lower costs for activities such as planting and thinning, may incur higher costs associated with form pruning. Further research is required to determine the most appropriate regime relative to inputs and final tree quality.

For further information contact Private Forests Tasmania Burnie 6434 6319 Hobart 6233 7445 Launceston 6336 5300 Email: admin@privateforests.tas.gov.au © Private Forests Tasmania Date May 2004	This information has been prepared by Private Forests Tasmania. Every reasonable endeavour has been used to ensure that the material was accurate at the time of publication. However, Private Forests Tasmania takes no responsibility for the accuracy, completeness or relevance of such information or for matters arising from changed circumstances or information or material which may have become available subsequently. This information is introductory in nature and should not be treated as a substitute for specific advice or relied on as a basis for business decisions. Before undertaking any significant forestry project it is recommended that you seek personal professional advice directly from Private Forests Tasmania on the particular matter.
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