

Decision Tree

A CROP FOR THE FUTURE



In this Guidance Note

In this guidance note, we will look at common risks associated with plantation farm forestry and mitigation strategies to help alleviate those risks. Further support is available through the Decision Tree program.

RISK	MITIGATION STRATEGY
Weeds aggressively competing with trees for water, nutrients and light	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-plant spray with broad spectrum herbicides. • Cultivate (mound or rip) tree planting lines. • Consider scalping grasses on sandy sites. • Post plant over-spray. • Fertilise at planting to encourage early growth and canopy closure. • Graze with stock when trees reach 2m tall.
Browsing animal damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Browsing animals can be kept out by fencing, while shooting and poisoning have also been used because of the high cost of fencing. • Stock must be excluded from plantations for up to three years and until trees are taller than 3m.
Fire	<p>It is vital that all plantations have a Fire Management Plan (FMP). The plantation manager should submit a plan for each plantation development project to the local government along with the initial planning applications and if planning permission is not required, send a copy of the FMP as a courtesy. The plantation manager must advise the local government of any updates to the FMP or annual works program throughout the life of the plantation.</p>

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Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment



SOUTH WEST
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RISK	MITIGATION STRATEGY
Fire (cont...)	<p>The FMP should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landowner and/or occupier information, contact details, including 24 hour fire contact phone number • Contact details of local fire control agencies • A firefighting equipment register and details of any cooperative arrangements • Plantation species, area, layout including compartment size • Fire protection measures • Surrounding local features including provision of a map at a suitable scale, fire management maps, standardised map legends.
Market risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select species that have a current market. Speculation on exotic species will increase your risk. • Have a plan to market/sell your timber before you plant. • Consider entering into either an offtake agreement or sharefarm arrangement to reduce risk. Sharefarms partner farmers with experienced plantation growers who can arrange access into existing wood markets. • Offtake agreements with processors reduce risk by committing processors to buy the log products resulting from harvests. Processors gain by having certainty of supply, enabling capital upgrades and maintenance.
Unable to get insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider joining Forestry Australia, which represents small growers and who maintain links with the providers of plantation insurance. • Contact processors or large growers and see if pooled or group insurance is available. • Consider third party forest managers who may be able to access insurance. • Demonstrate professional and competent management of plantations by producing high quality maps, supplying such maps to insurers, and table a copy of Fire Management Plan.