

Planting Operations.

Planting the crop is an important element as if you don't do it there is nothing to continue with here. But we assume that is what you want. So stocking is important in several ways. Different species have different stocking rates but let's stick with Pinus Radiata. 1250 stems per hectare seems to be the accepted norm, I beg to differ with this as well with reason. Next, the planting of the tree is well tested and there are common faults in planting. not tight, not Straight, not deep enough are the common ones regards planting. Tree storage and cartage are the other issues as they need to be cared for and there is a tendance for them to be mistreated which at the end of the day, will end up with pour planting survival. Nursery to ground needs to be as short as possible. Seedling quality is an element that relies on the nursery you purchase seedling from.

Species

There are a range of species, and some are interesting. But the core one is P. radiata. Douglas Fir is out of flavor due to its wildling tendencies. Natives are also an accepted planting possibility, but they are not that easy to establish. End use is what you have to make a call on and that can be hard as you are targeting a market 25 to 40 years out.

Spacing

If we accept P. radiata is 1250 per hectare we have a spacing which is easy to calculate. 2 metres between trees and 4 metres between rows. $2 \times 4 = 8$. 10000 divided by 8 = 1250 trees per hectare. That is how simple it is. Now this spacing has been accepted currently but I feel it will change. My feeling and thoughts are that we should be planting 1000 per hectare or a spacing of 2 between trees 5 metres between rows.

Quality

Quality starts at the nursery and ends when the tree is in the ground. **No** the second element is release. The trees need to be released from weeds and that is another chapter. The following picture is P.radiata one year old and planted well. released and the tree has good form.

Brief Description of Planting.

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P. radiata one year old good form and growth.