

Timber is the ultimate renewable resource

Each year trees are planted, grown, harvested and more trees planted to help build the homes of Australia.

The life of a pine – the pine plantation rotation

Forestry Corporation selects seeds from specialist tree breeders that are adapted to the local conditions and will develop into straight, strong, trees that are ideal for timber production. We sow nearly nine million seeds a year at our custom-built Blowering Nursery near Tumut, which is the largest radiata pine seedling production nursery in NSW.

Seed is sown during September and October, ready for planting from June to August the following year.



Each winter around 9 million seedlings are planted on recently harvested plantations.

One seedling is planted every 2.5 metres along the rows of mounds which are between three and four metres apart (about 1000 plants/hectare).



During the life of a pine plantation, smaller and weaker trees are removed or 'thinned' to allow the remaining trees more space, light and water to grow.

The smaller, younger trees usually produce pulpwood, which is processed to make items such as paper products and particleboard. As the trees mature, each tree can produce a range of different products. For example, the strong solid bottom half of the trunk is usually ideal for house frames and furniture while the narrower sections towards the top are generally used to create products like particleboard and paper products.



The plantation is finally harvested between age 30 and 35.

The logs harvested mainly produce building timber for houses and furniture.

The logs are cut then processed into lengths and then taken to a sawmill where they are sawn and dried to produce timber.



0
YEAR

0-10
MONTHS

8-10
MONTHS

2
YEARS

13-25
YEARS

25-35
YEARS

Seedlings are carefully hand weeded, fertilised, nurtured and watered for around eight to 10 months before being sent off for planting.

After two years the seedlings reach approximately two metres in height and begin to suppress competing vegetation. In some cases remedial fertiliser is applied to promote well-formed trees.



Growth rings A pine tree's life history revealed

A Radiata pine tree adds a growth ring on the outside of its trunk under the bark each year. These annual rings enable us to know the tree's age and growth patterns. The colour and thickness of the rings are affected by the season - spring growth produces a lighter coloured ring and summer produces a darker ring. The thickness of a ring is also determined by the number of trees in the plantation. The more crowded the plantation, the less the tree can grow as it competes with other trees for light, water and soil nutrients. As a tree competes, its growth rate is slowed down, therefore its ring thickness in those years is reduced.

Builds homes

Forests give people the material they need to build their homes and offices.

NSW State forests produce enough timber each year to construct a quarter of all houses built in Australia.

Timber has a much smaller carbon footprint than other popular building materials like concrete and steel. It even stores carbon!



Builds communities

Forestry is a key local industry and an integral part of timber towns of Bathurst, Oberon and Orange in the Bathurst Management Region.

Our staff can combine rewarding and contributing careers with the benefits of a regional lifestyle.

A significant proportion of the community is directly employed in the forestry sector, with on-flow benefits to the economy and community.

