

# Farm Forestry in Low Rainfall Areas (<450mm)

## Planning – the Key to Success

### ● Identify your objectives

Trees and shrubs are planted on farms to achieve numerous outcomes. It is important at an early stage to identify your goals and identify what “on-farm” and landcare benefits your Farm Forestry projects are to provide.



Have a clear picture as to what you are trying to achieve with your revegetation.

### ● Identify end products and understand your markets

Trees and shrubs grown in low rainfall areas can provide a wide variety of products. However, the markets for some of these may be underdeveloped or require strict quality specifications.



Understand what you’re aiming to produce, and how you are going to market it.

### ● Assess the potential of your site

Determine suitable species and the potential of the proposed site by considering rainfall, soil conductivity, soil type and depth, presence of hardpans or restrictive barriers, distance to and salt content of ground water, nutrient status and presence of browsing animals. Also consider access to the site for future harvesting.



Consider the best species and sites when planning commercial projects.

### ● Know your ability to meet management requirements

Management requirements vary greatly and may include pruning, thinning, spraying, feral animal, insect and weed control. In many situations management is essential for commercial success, whilst other options may require only minimal management once established and may better suit your individual situation.



Identify what you are prepared to commit in terms of land, money and time to produce a desired outcome.

### ● Source the best provenance seed available

Obtaining fresh seed from a desired provenance and sourcing quality seedlings from a reputable nursery will increase the success of your project. Talk to your local seedling supplier, or for more assistance contact commercial seed supply companies, CALM, CSIRO Australian Tree Seed Centre, and Greening Australia (WA).



For Maritime Pine, Eucalypt sawlogs and Oil Mallees, it is possible to source seed from known performing provenances.

### ● Consider establishment techniques

All projects, especially those with a commercial focus, require good site preparation such as ripping and mounding/scalping. Quality weed control and the exclusion of stock and feral animals are also important considerations.



Learn from others who have experience in successful revegetation establishment.

### ● Identify your risks

Many commercial forestry projects involve a level of risk, but pressures can be reduced through designing Farm Forestry projects so that landcare objectives (such as wind breaks, water use and increased biodiversity) are achieved.



Understand potential risks, and plan ahead to minimise these risks.

