



PFLA PIPELINE
ISSUE 2

REFORESTATION ON PRIVATE MANAGED FOREST LAND: AN OVERVIEW

Reforestation is an important part of sustainable forest management and is one of the long term management commitments made by owners in the Managed Forest Program. This fact sheet outlines considerations for private managed forest landowners preparing for reforestation.

REFORESTATION ON PRIVATE MANAGED FOREST LAND

Reforestation is an important part of sustainable forest management and is one of the long term management commitments made by owners in the Managed Forest Program. On private managed forest land, harvested or disturbed areas must be reforested promptly with healthy, ecologically suited commercial species. While it is possible to let a harvested stand regenerate naturally on some sites, reforestation is usually done by planting.

Silviculture activities include reforestation planning, procurement of seedlings, site preparation, planting or natural regeneration, monitoring, and tending plantations.

The management commitment for private managed forest lands contains broad objectives to achieve the reforestation goal. Because areas throughout a property may vary, it is prudent to have detailed reforestation plans specific to each area that consider residual and suppressed understory trees, selection of ecologically suited commercial trees, using genetically improved planting stock and/or fertilizer to improve survival and yield, pest management strategies, and site preparation if required to ensure ample plantable spots. In developing a reforestation plan keep in mind these time-sensitive legislated reforestation requirements:

- Restocking with required minimum number of crop trees, (400 or 600 stems per ha depending on area in province) well distributed throughout the disturbed area, must be achieved within **five years**.
- Successfully regenerated stand status, where there remains at least the minimum number of well distributed crop trees now free in height from any competing vegetation must be achieved within **15 years**.

PLANNING

Step 1: Pre-Harvest

Before harvesting begins, detailed plans are developed to determine prescriptions for the removal and subsequent growth of the forest. Before harvesting, contact a local reforestation nursery to schedule your seedling order. Placing your seedling order before harvest minimizes downtime between harvest and replanting which can help seedlings establish before the growth of competition like shrubs and other foliage.

Did You Know? Forest professionals ensure that forest practices comply with legislative requirements. Forest Professionals BC (FPBC) maintains a public directory of forest professionals that includes registration history, status, practice areas, and location. Visit www.fpbc.ca/public-interest/registrant-directory.

Step 2: Order Seedlings

Your conversation with a local reforestation nursery should start up to two years before you need seedlings. The nursery will coordinate ordering the seed based on your criteria for seed lot and stock type, either from the BC Government Tree Seed Centre or from a private seed collector. Maintain good communication with the nursery around the timing for sowing and seedling delivery.



Step 3: Pre-treatment

Once seedlings have been ordered and harvest is complete, consider any pre-treatment measures needed to prepare the ground for planting. New trees require just the right amount of water saturation, nutrients, and access to sunlight. If these conditions aren't present, they may need to be created. Once the proper conditions are met, a plan can be made for planting.

The Canadian Forests Website offers a directory of Canadian silviculture contractors and reforestation nurseries.

<https://www.canadian-forests.com/silviculture-nurseries.html>

Step 4: Planting Plan

A planting plan outlines the tree planting guidelines, including which tree varieties to plant, the required spacing between each tree, and the requirement (or not) for browse guards. Once the pre-treatment is complete and the plan is written, a tree planting company can plant the trees according to the plan.

Step 5: Monitoring

Monitoring and stand tending as required to monitor survival, conduct fill plants if necessary, and conduct brush control.

Resources

BC Forest Safety - Tree Planting Safety Resource Package

Information on preventing MSIs, wrist and forearm exercises, and fertilizer safety

<https://www.bcforestsafe.org/resource/silviculture-safety-resources>

Managed Forest Council - Field Practices Guide Infoplip

A pocket infoplip reference on recommended forest practices, and summary of administrative & regulatory obligations under the Private Managed Forest Land Act.

<https://www.mfcouncil.ca/legislation-policy/guidelines>

Tree Species Selection Tool

The Tree Species Selection Tool provides forest practitioners with the best available science-based information about tree species selection for a given geographical location.

<https://www.mfcouncil.ca/legislation-policy/guidelines>