

## WOODLAND ESTABLISHMENT TIPS

- The secret of success in establishing your woodland lies in getting the trees off to a fast start and;
- Over the next five years regularly inspecting your woodland and carrying out the appropriate work on time.

This leaflet answers some frequently asked questions about planting, weeding, formative pruning, protection, drainage and nutrition. For more detailed guidance refer to Forest Service or Forestry Commission publications or contact your local Private Woodland Officer. Contact addresses are listed at the end of this leaflet.



### Planting

- Always handle young trees with care, don't crush bags of plants or leave roots to dry in the open.
- On delivery ensure that trees are good quality and healthy.
- Planting should take place as quickly as possible after delivery. If the bags of trees need

to be stored, ensure they are kept side by side in a cool, dry, dark place.

- Plant trees in the ground at the same level as they were raised in the nursery. Deep planting may kill trees.
- Broadleaves, larch and Douglas fir should be planted by the end of February.
- Other conifers can be planted until the end of April.

### Protection

- Ensure the woodland is well fenced and that fences are kept in good repair.
- Even small numbers of livestock in young woodland over short periods of time cause major browsing damage, trampling of roots, and destruction of drains.
- Tree shelters are ideal for small irregularly shaped areas and can protect trees from rabbit and hare damage, and provide favourable conditions for tree growth
- Tree shelters should not be used in very exposed sites and it is important to keep them upright at all times

### Weeding

- Young trees have to compete for water, nutrients, light and soil when surrounded by grass and weeds.
- April/May are critical months to prevent competing weeds from growing. The benefits of controlling grass and weeds from July onward, is less, as most of the tree growth has already occurred.
- Fast, early tree growth will only be achieved if the surrounding grass and weeds are eliminated. Control grass and weeds in a 1m

diameter spot around the base of the tree until the tree is established.

- Herbicides, available from local stockists, are an efficient way to control weeds. They must be used with care, follow the herbicide label instructions. Inappropriate use of herbicide may kill trees.
- If weeding has not been done in spring, trampling grass around the tree after July is a useful emergency action to prevent trees from being smothered.

### Formative Pruning

- The objective is to produce broadleaf woodlands with single straight stems producing high quality timber.



- Early pruning is most important and usually takes place about 3 to 4 years after planting when the trees are 1m to 1.5m tall. Pruning can be carried out subsequently to maintain the straight stem.
- Where two or more leading shoots compete on the same tree, the aim is to remove the fork or cut back competing shoots and favour the dominant shoot. Heavy side branches can also

be removed. Excessive branch removal should be avoided.

- The best period for pruning is June to August for most broadleaves. Oak should be pruned in December. Failing this, all species can be pruned in mid winter.
- Trees that are very poorly formed should not be pruned, but retained in the wood.
- Work can be done with hand secateurs up to 3m in height and with long handled secateurs at greater heights. A pruning saw is necessary for larger branches.

## Drainage

- Blocked drains cause water logging, which when prolonged, will kill tree roots and the trees may eventually die.
- Inspect drains regularly and clear blockages.

## Fertilising

- Broadleaf sites in lowland areas should not normally require fertiliser.
- Upland sites, usually planted with predominantly conifers, may require fertiliser depending on the soil type.
- Typical symptoms of nutrient deficiency are stunted growth and discolouration of the foliage.
- Check that these symptoms are not due to other factors e.g. browsing by livestock, water logging, severe grass and weed competition, insect attack.
- If you believe the symptoms are due to nutrient deficiency, contact your local Private Woodland Officer for advice.

## CONTACT ADDRESSES

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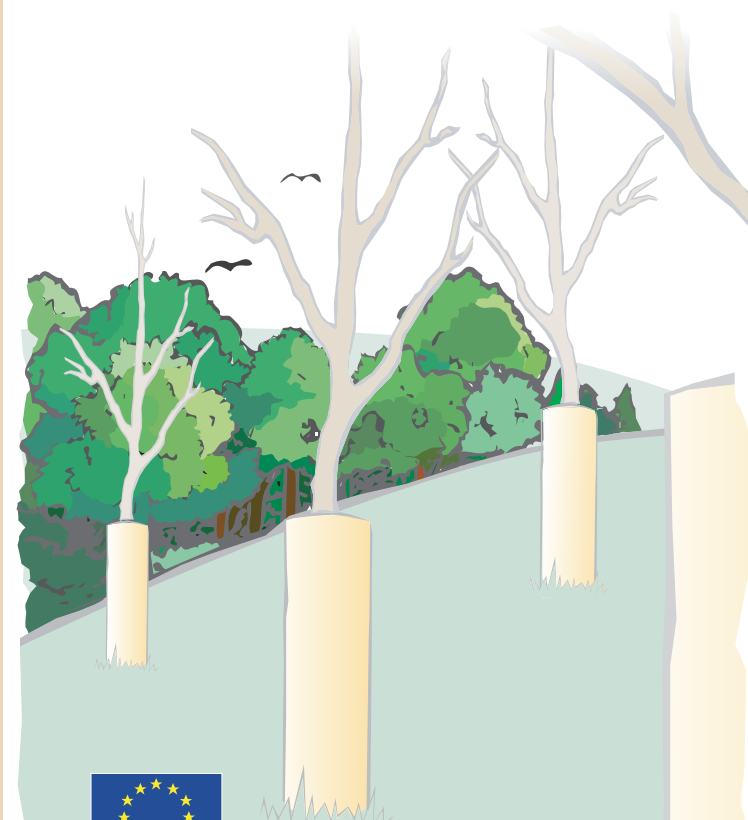
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*The secrets of success in  
maintaining your new woodland*



EUROPEAN COMMUNITY  
European Agricultural Guidance  
and Guarantee Fund

