

Appendix 3: Site Preparation

Objective: To use trenching, dragging or plowing equipment to expose suitable mineral soil for planting seedlings and to reduce undesirable natural regeneration which will compete with the planted seedlings. This treatment may not be required on certain planting sites.

Pre-treatment Assessment

All Sites:

- Planting Opportunities: the number of favorable planting opportunities < 1500/ha and no cost-effective alternative is available to create sufficient planting opportunities.

Forest sites - the following sites resulting from harvesting may be treated:

- Softwood, Softwood-Hardwood, Intolerant Hardwood and Intolerant Hardwood-Softwood sites (pre-harvest stand types) with < 40% softwood natural generation* crop tree stocking (using 1.26 m radius (5 m²) plots where one "in" tree represents stocked). Non-commercial woody species competition must be < 2 m average height.
- Remnant overstory: less than 25% crown closure (8 m²/ha residual basal area).

Note: Harvested Tolerant Hardwood and Tolerant Hardwood-Softwood sites (pre-harvest stand types) will not be treated.

Former Agricultural Fields:

- Sites must be of above average site quality, and must not show signs of impeded drainage (sites with soil gleying must be avoided).
- May be treated where existing vegetation significantly impedes planting or is present to the extent that it would retard the establishment of planted seedlings.
- Use of a brush hog is acceptable where > 60% of planting opportunities are overtopped by woody species. Herbicide site preparation may be required before planting.
- Mowing of predominately non-woody vegetation is not eligible.
- Use of a mulching head, hydro Axe, Marden Rollers, or other heavy equipment is acceptable with prior ERD approval and where the site is at least 95% occupied by non-commercial woody species > 3m in height.
- 100% of the work area must be treated (no spot or band treatment).
- Any approved heavy mechanical site prep treatment must be coded for the appropriate machine.

Post-treatment Inspection

- Potential for stocking: Sufficient favorable planting opportunities to accommodate a minimum of 90% crop tree stocking (using 1.26 m radius (5 m²) plots where one "in" tree represents stocked).
- Planting opportunity: a location with access to mineral soil and where competing vegetation will not significantly impede the development of the seedling for at least 12 months from the scheduled time of planting.
- Untreated areas: inoperable areas that are too wet and/or rock outcrops, larger than 0.04 ha are considered voids and will be deducted to calculate net treated area. All

voids 0.5 ha and larger are to be mapped and must be excluded from the final submitted shapefile.

*Natural Regeneration – See Appendix 5