



# Farm Forestry NSW: recommended tree planting times



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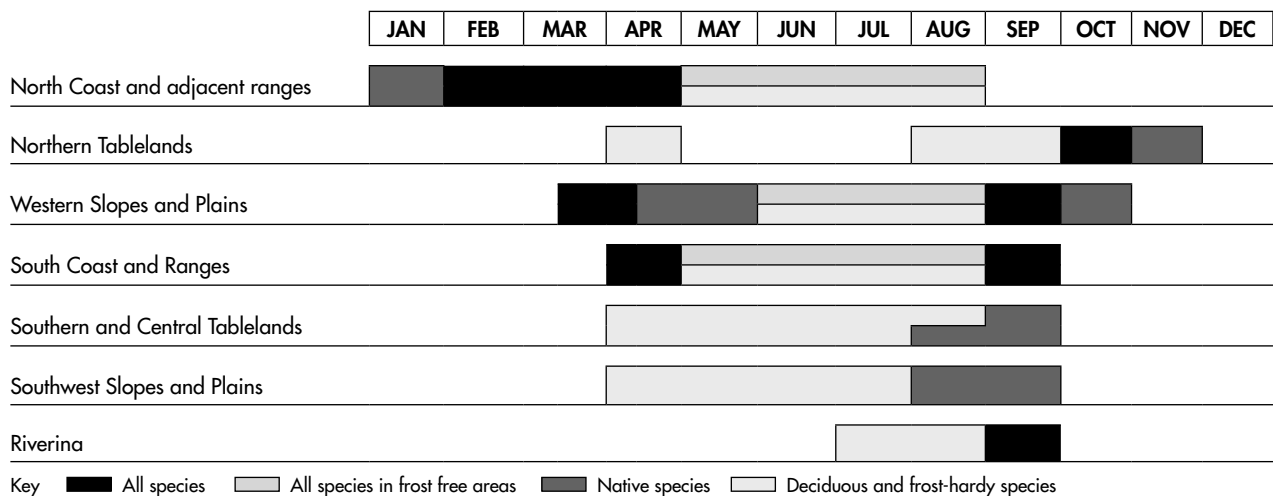
Tree planting times for any location depend on the climate and tree species. Soil moisture availability, evaporation, humidity and winds determine a seedling's ability to cope and survive. Frosts, especially if out of season, can damage sensitive species. The table below gives a guide to the best times to plant different types of trees across NSW.

Prior to planting:

- Check soil moisture and weather forecasts for rainfall probability and likelihood of frost. Beware of unseasonal dry spells and frost. Use the table as a general guide, but plant at times of highest soil moisture.
- Supplementary watering may be required during hot, dry weather while seedlings are young. An infrequent deep soaking is better than frequent surface watering.
- Before planting, deep ripping and/or other initial site preparation must be done at least

six months earlier – and on the western slopes and plains preferably 12 months earlier.

- For larger scale planting, order seedlings in bulk at least 12 months in advance.
- For optimal survival and growth, the site must be free of weeds and other competition at least one month before planting and for at least 12 months following planting.
- In the tablelands areas, autumn weather conditions may be best for planting, but it is difficult to get fully 'hardened' seedlings and frost damage can occur. Avoid planting acacias and other frost tender species and do not fertilise trees in autumn.
- In spring, frost-hardened plants are available, but weed competition and moisture stress may follow, depending on the season.



## REFERENCES

A series of Farm Forestry Agnotes and Agfacts are available. They include:

- Agnote DPI-374 *Farm Forestry: Suggested reading and web sites.*
- Agnote DPI-375 *Farm Forestry: Trees for the western slopes and plains – NSW.*
- Agnote DPI-376 *Farm Forestry: Trees for the Tablelands of NSW.*
- Agnote DPI-377 *Farm Forestry: Trees for the coast and adjacent ranges of NSW.*
- Agnote DPI-378 *Farm Forestry: Recommended tree planting times.*
- Agnote DPI-379 *Farm Forestry: Training and education NSW.*

## Acknowledgement

This Agnote was originally written by Anthony Signor, formerly Agroforestry Coordinator, NSW Agriculture, Tamworth.

### DISCLAIMER

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (February 2005). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of New South Wales Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.

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