

### Phytophthora Management Guidelines

The Phytophthora Technical Group has developed the Phytophthora Management Guidelines to provide a framework for the management of *Phytophthora* by landholders, community groups, individuals, Government and non-government organisations.

*Phytophthora* is a root-rot fungus that causes dieback of native and introduced plants including trees, vines, fruit and vegetables. The present known distribution in SA includes many roadside reserves on Kangaroo Island and in the Mount Lofty Ranges and Fleurieu Peninsula. Once an area is infected with *Phytophthora*, eradication is not possible.

A copy of the Guidelines has been included for your information.

### Forest Insects

You may have noticed sawflies, commonly known as 'spitfires' in your woodlot over the last couple of months. They are very common insects on eucalypts and are actually wasps rather than flies. The larvae of most species of sawflies are defoliators, however some species are leafminers. Although sawfly larvae are very conspicuous on trees, they often do little damage if only a few of them are on large trees. Currawongs and cuckoo-shrikes are natural predators of the larvae while other birds will eat the adults. PIRSA Forestry has a number of fact sheets on forest insects. To find out more contact PIRSA Forestry on the details below.

### Preparing Plantations for the Fire Season

Preparation for the fire danger season should start well before summer. These preparations should include the development of a bushfire action plan as well as prevention work around your property.

If you are planning an area for next years planting season, you require a 20m firebreak or a 10m firebreak with a 10m fuel modified zone along all external property boundaries of the plantation for fire protection. For internal access, a minimum of 7m is suggested. If you have an established plantation, the firebreaks should now be slashed. Grazing with lambs or ewes may also be carried out. This can be done if the shortest trees are at least 1.5m – 2m tall.

As an added precaution, a single plough cut or one pass with a grader around the edges of the plantation (2-3m wide) will give an added level of protection from any ground fires that may enter from neighboring paddocks or roadsides. However, if ploughing or grading is not practical, one pass along the plantation edge with a boom spray during weed control operations can also be carried out, which will also result in bare ground between the plantation and surrounds.

For more information about bushfire prevention and protecting yourself, go to the South Australian Country Fire Service website at <http://www.cfs.org.au/>

## Update on Private Forestry KI Executive Officer Position

The initial call to fill the position was unsuccessful therefore the position has been readvertised.

## Tools for loan on KI

Pottiputki planting tools and forestry pruning loppers are available for loan free of charge. Contact Amy Ho at PIRSA Forestry on 8291 5418 or 0418 805 568.

## Master Tree Growers and Mount Lofty Ranges/ Kangaroo Island AFG field day

MTG in conjunction with MLR/KI AFG branch held a wood processing field day in August that was well attended by landholders from KI and MLR. The day included a visit to Bush Timbers and Pfitzner furniture in the Adelaide Hills and a presentation by CSIRO timber expert, Russell Washusen on wood properties and processing. Karl from Bush Timbers markets native species for specialist uses and highlighted the challenges with cutting timber using portable sawmills. Russell Washusen focused on the technical aspects of producing and milling fast-grown high-quality hardwood sawlogs. John from Pfitzner Furniture emphasised the need for reliable suppliers of quality wood and the challenges of competing with low-cost imports.

## Farm Forestry Incentives for 2007

Private Forestry Kangaroo Island has obtained funding through the Australian Government National Landcare Program to support the 2007 Farm Forestry for Multiple Benefits project.

The purpose of the project is to provide incentives to Kangaroo Island landholders to develop farm forestry plantings on cleared agricultural land for multiple benefits, addressing a range of natural resource management issues including:

- salinity management (reduction in secondary salinity),
- waterlogging (reduction in waterlogging and improved soil health),
- water quality improvement (erosion management) and
- habitat enhancement (linking vegetation corridors),

as well as producing timber for firewood and sawlog applications for diversification of farm income.

To register your interest, please contact Amy Ho on the details below for an Information Pack.

## Contact Details

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