



Another busy summer and it's hard to believe we're already a third of the way through 2013.

BRIEFLY...

We have a number of *New Zealand Plantation Forest Industry Facts and Figures 2011/2012* publications. If you would like a copy, please contact your regional office.

There are currently 141 registered indigenous sawmillers throughout the country (86 in the North Island and 55 in the South Island).

There are opportunities for milling indigenous timber from areas not covered by Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Plans or Permits: these include "naturally dead" and "windthrown" trees, trees removed for construction or maintenance of an accessway, trees removed as part of a mining operation, and salvaged timber. Contact your regional Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) office for information on the process for obtaining a Milling Statement.

NORTHLAND TOTARA WORKING GROUP UPDATE

The Northland Totara Working Group (NTWG) met Monday 18 March to discuss the results from the re-measurement of their silvicultural trial established five years ago in Northland, with funding from the Sustainable Farming Fund. The purpose of the trial is to compare the difference in development and growth between thinned and non-thinned stands of naturally regenerated totara on farmland. Results to date show that thinned plots are producing double the diameter at breast height (DBH) increment of unthinned control plots, suggesting that the thinning regime was conservative and could have been more aggressive.

With funding for the current project coming to a close, it was agreed at the meeting that a further project could be undertaken to analyse variation between sites in the current silvicultural trial: this would look to determine possible correlations between growth performance and site conditions such as soil type, fertility, and rainfall.



Paul Quinlan had the opportunity to show a representative from the Ministry for Primary Industries Maori Primary Sector Partnerships Directorate, and two Iwi representatives from the Far North, around his young totara forest, being managed under a registered SFM Plan. The gathering of ideas for potential

landuses for treaty-settlement lands was the main reason for the field visit. It was a positive visit with the representatives coming away inspired to develop their indigenous timber resource for production.

INDIGENOUS FOREST RESEARCH: SCION AND TANE'S TREE TRUST ESTABLISHMENT, TE PUNA QUARRY PARK SOCIETY

Crown Research Institute Scion is researching planting and management of a number of different indigenous timbers. While supporting the need to conserve natural forests, Scion advocates that many indigenous species can be grown specifically for timber production.

Their planted indigenous research programme covers many aspects of indigenous forestry from species selection to timber qualities. One example is the establishment of native conifers at Te Puna Quarry Park, in the Bay of Plenty.



Four 15 metres diameter plots were planted in mid-2003 – one each of totara, kahikatea, rimu and kauri at approximately 2 to 3 metres spacing (approx. 1100 stems per hectare). Twenty-five to thirty conifer seedlings were planted in each plot. The aim is to evaluate the performance of a range of native conifer tree species and to provide an easily accessible demonstration area for those interested in planting native trees as a long-term specialty wood supply.

Manuka was planted between the conifers and surrounding area at the same time and at similar spacing to provide weed control and shelter. Early weed control included spraying and manual pulling of weeds. Totara, kahikatea and rimu all require form and lower branch pruning.

So far, excellent survival and height growth was achieved for all species on this warm north-facing site with free-draining top soil. Sample measurements at nine years of age show promising results in terms of mean height and DBH.

For more information go to <http://www.scionresearch.com/research/forest-science>

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