

Spacing

Recommended spacing on slopes is 12 -15 m, and in gullies 8 -12 m.

Planting

It is recommended to use a pole bar which has been specifically designed for planting poles. These are available for hire from Akura (limited supply).

Planting technique:

- Establish a pilot hole to 700 mm depth (to the foot-pegs of the pole bar)
- Drive poles till firm. On a 3 m pole 400-500 mm should protrude above the 1.7 m sleeve
- Cultivate the soil around the base of the pole. This can be done with the tip of the pole bar
- Ram the topsoil area tight. This can be done with the top of the pole bar
- Re-ramming may be required later in the spring.

Management

It is recommended to form prune to a single dominant leader after 1 to 3 years. This will improve final tree form.

Sleeves should “unzip” at 3 to 6 years, but some may require release cutting. Once sleeves are removed the bark is soft and requires some time to harden. Cattle may damage soft bark at this stage.

Sleeves can be taken to Akura Plant Nursery for recycling.

Further information

The website below has some very informative videos on planting and management of poles

<http://www.poplarandwillow.org.nz/farmer-guides/planting-and-management>



POPLAR AND WILLOW GUIDE

Poplar and willow poles are planted for a variety of reasons, the main one being to prevent soil erosion. Both poplars and willows grow quickly and have large root systems that bind soils and stop mass soil movement thus protecting pasture. Poplars and willows are also planted for shelter and shade, fodder, and to a lesser extent timber.

All Akura poles have been soaked, pointed and colour coded.



POPLAR VARIETIES

WILLOW VARIETIES

For sheltered to exposed sites

Clone	Colour band	Tolerance to drought	Tolerance to possum	Tolerance to wind
Crowsnest	Yellow/Red	Excellent	Average	Average
Fraser	Brown	Excellent	Average	Excellent
Highden	Green/White	Excellent	Average	Excellent
Selwyn	Green/Lilac	Excellent	Average	Excellent
Veronese	Red	Excellent	Average	Excellent

For sheltered to semi-exposed sites

Clone	Colour band	Tolerance to drought	Tolerance to possum	Tolerance to wind
Geyles	Blue/Green	Average	Excellent	Average
Kawa	Black	Average	Average	Average
Mapiu	Blue/Orange	Average	Excellent	Average
Otahoua	White	Average	Average	Average
Pecam	Blue/Red	Average	Excellent	Average
Weraiti	Lilac	Average	Average	Average

For sheltered sites/ moist gullies

Clone	Colour band	Tolerance to drought	Tolerance to possum	Tolerance to wind
Yeogi	No Colour	Average	Excellent	Excellent

For exposed sites

Clone	Colour band	Tolerance to drought	Tolerance to possum	Tolerance to wind
Matsudana x 1332	White/Blue	Excellent	Average	Average
Matsudana 721	Male Green	Excellent	Average	Excellent
Matsudana x pentandra	Female Green/Black	Excellent	Excellent	Average
Tangoio	Female Blue	Excellent	Average	Excellent

For sheltered sites

Clone	Colour band	Tolerance to drought	Tolerance to possum	Tolerance to wind
Moutere	Yellow	Average	Poor	Excellent
Vitellina x pentandra	Male Green/Red	Average	Excellent	Average

Storage

Poles are best stored in a cool shady area away from direct sun and north-westerly winds.

Maintain moisture content of the poles by hosing regularly or by soaking in a fresh water creek or dam. Avoid stagnant water.

Keep stock away from unplanted poles.

Sleeves

If stock are going to be around planted poles then Dynex sleeves should be used. They require no stapling and can be fitted before or after planting.

Siting

Select pole variety based on site conditions (i.e. exposed or sheltered, dry or wet)

Poles should be sited in wetter hollows and slight depressions with adequate soil depth, avoiding dry windy ridges and spurs.

Poles should be kept away from stock access tracks to minimise the effect of rubbing and loosening of poles.

Where poles are to be planted in a gully, locate poles above the bed level to avoid restricting stream flow. It is best to angle the pole away from the banks to avoid stock browsing.