

Waste Thinning Operations.

Waste thinning is when you are required to remove the trees that are not required. When planting pine they are planted at a high stocking to help with branch control and be sure you get a selection of trees that have good form. Timing is not that critical, but the operation should be completed by age 14. So, we are looking at between year 9 and 14. This is a wide window to get this operation carried out.

Thinning After Pruning.

Once the pruning operations are completed and the stand has been pruned to the required prune height the surplus trees are removed. This is a standard operation where all trees that have not been pruned are removed. If there is a gap through this operation, a unpruned tree is left to fill the space.

Sawlog Thinning.

Sawlog thinning is where there has been no pruning and the stand is to be thinned down to a stocking where it will produce unpruned quality logs. The idea is to thin out all trees to leave a stocking between 600 and 625 stems. It relies heavily on the planted stocking. Most times in the past you just take out all stems that fall within a triangle spacing to give you the stocking you want. I believe this is the wrong approach and one should thin out all stems that are flawed and only remove good stems when required to get to the desired stocking. Some poor form trees may be left to fill a gap.