

Pruning Operations.

Pruning is where the lower branches are removed to leave a clear log to sell at harvest. The timing of this operation is important. They call this target DOS “Diameter Over Stubs”. If you can prune the branches and the DOS is below 20cm then you have hit the target. If you can only achieve 50cm you are outside the acceptable range. This also enters several other issues. The infection in the branch stub is more prevalent with a greater Dos. This also brings in timing in that pruning between Mid-May and mid-September should not be done. Pruning is not a winter job. Tree form also plays apart in the timing of the operation. If the trees hav light branching then pruning can be timed later. So lets look at this below.

Single Lift

Single lift pruning is where you get the tree pruned to height that you want or what the market requires. And you can achieve it within an acceptable DOS this can be set by the forest owner. But be aware that the sawmill is after a tree with the best conversion to clear wood.

Two Lifts.

Pruning two lifts is the accepted norm and involves ground pruning where all the first operation is done from the ground. The second lift is done from up a ladder designed to make this job safe and achieve the height for the final lift.

Three Lifts.

The same as two lift pruning but we do three lifts. The stand has a short prune followed by a second prune and a final prune to achieve the final height.

Prune Height.

Prune height is set and open for discussion as it is driven by market variable and is another discussion. The other element is starting stocking and final pruned stocking and I have to say I am disappointed at the way this element has gone and I do have a view on this.