

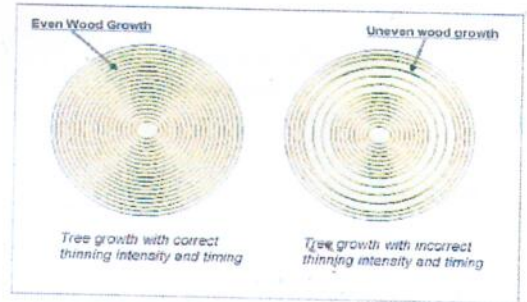


Thinning: You decide which good trees grow FAT FAST

THINNING = more space for your good trees to get LIGHT, WATER & FOOD

THINNING = even tree growth to produce high quality wood

THINNING = shorter time before a profitable harvest



Thinning & Tree Growth: Even growth makes good wood



Dense plantings: For good form and income generation

Why do you plant more trees than you are going to sell?

- To make the trees grow tall and straight
- To keep the branches small
- To get income from thinnings for home and commercial use
- To reduce you maintenance costs (time)
- So you have lots of trees to choose your best trees from

What is the Difference Between a Thinned and Un-thinned Plantation?

UN-THINNED FOREST



- Little \$\$\$
- Skinny
- Bent
- Dead & dying
- Poor Quality
- Longer Rotation
- Stacka Sapwood
- Tapered logs
- Low Volume



THINNED FOREST

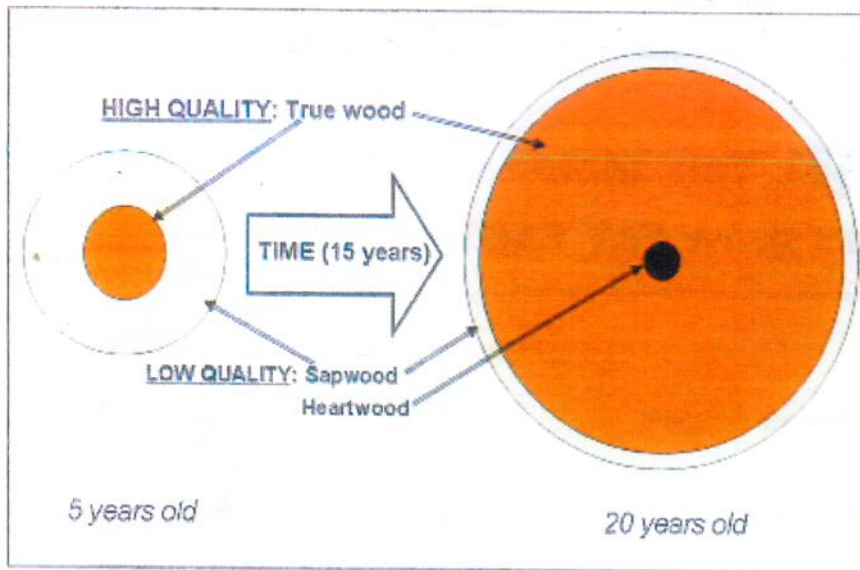


- Stacka \$\$\$
- Fat
- Straight
- Fast Growing
- Healthy Trees
- Short Rotation
- Truewood
- More Volume
- Good quality

Why do you have to wait 20-25 years?

- To get your trees large enough to be useful and highly profitable
- To have a lot of "truewood" (see next page). This is the high value part of your tree; it has good colour and wood properties. **This takes time.**

TRUEWOOD: The high value part of your tree



Left: TRUEWOOD, AN AGING PROCESS, the high value part of your tree is the "truewood." This is the part that has the desirable colour and wood properties. Below: HIGH-VALUE LOGS, these logs are 25 years old which means they are mostly truewood.



How do you know when to thin?

- If your trees crowns are touching (canopy closure)
- If you have more trees than outlined in the table below.
- When the lower leaves are yellow or brown.
- When the undergrowth starts to die

Which trees do you remove & which do you leave?

REMOVE, BURN OR RING BARK THE RUBBISH TREES:

- Small, slow growing trees
- Trees that are bent or leaning
- Trees that have two leaders (forked) or large branches
- Trees that are competing with your best trees

LEAVE THE GOOD TREES:

- Straight, fast growing trees
- Trees that are not competing with any others



Above: RUBBISH TREES, need to remove small and competing trees.

Below: GOOD TREES, keep the straight good trees growing with no direct competition



How many trees to thin? What products will you get? When to do it?

It is important to thin correctly and on time. This table is only a guide. It is an example for Teak planted 4m by 3m, therefore 833 trees per hectare (1 hectare = 100 * 100 m or 2 soccer fields in size)

Operation	Number of Trees (ha)	Trees Removed	Trees Remaining	Approx. Age	Approx Size of Truewood (cm)	Products produced (approx SBD)
Planting	833	-	833	0	-	-
Thinning 1	833	333 (3 in 8)	500	2-4	2-8	Poles, firewood, compost
Thinning 2	500	200 (2 in 5)	300	8-12	12-20	Small logs (\$700-1000m ³)
Thinning 3	300	100 (1 in 3)	200	15-20	25-35	Medium logs (\$1200-1600m ³)
Clearfall	200	200	0	25-30	50-60	Large logs (\$1800-2400+ m ³)

NB: Prices are from 2005. They are likely to increase in value, as world-wide high-quality wood supplies diminish

REMEMBER: THIN FIRST AND PRUNE THE REMAINING TREES!!!

For more information contact your local forest extension officer, provincial forest division office or Honiara on 24215