



The trials feature a range of our selected species, and we are already carefully monitoring tree growth and performance, along with a range of other climate and site factors. Developing and testing different regimes for post and pole production is a priority at these trials. We will then develop guidelines and run workshops for growers. We will also develop productivity and growth models for the full range of selected eucalypt species and target site-types, using data from these trials.

Wood Quality Screening Research

As well as targeting genetic gains in growth, form, and site adaptability, the NZDFI is working on novel techniques to rapidly test wood samples from young trees for durability and other quality characteristics. If young individual trees in the trials can be identified with desired wood quality characteristics, then the potential gains from selection and genetic improvement can be further enhanced.

NZDFI Activities 2014-2016 and Beyond

Over \$2million has been invested in the NZDFI to date. In 2013, a \$216,000 MPI Sustainable Farming Fund grant was secured to underpin the next three-year phase of the project. While the underlying tree-improvement research will continue, over the next three years a big effort will be go into developing production regimes and extension resources for growers. We will also hold a series of grower-based workshops throughout our target eastern dryland region.

NZDFI People

The NZDFI is a collaborative cross-sector research and development project. Its progress relies on the work of closely integrated management, science, and extension teams. Key contributors to these teams include the Marlborough Research Centre, the University of Canterbury, Proseed, and a number of experienced independent consultants. Our teams work closely with landowners and other trial site managers. The NZDFI also works in partnership with many other organisations.



OUR VISION

The New Zealand Dryland Forests Initiative (NZDFI) is a commercially-oriented research and development project. It aims to develop genetically improved planting stock and management systems for ground-durable eucalypt species suited to New Zealand's dryland regions.

Our vision is for New Zealand to be a world-leader in breeding ground-durable eucalypts, and to be home to a valuable sustainable hardwood industry based on eucalypt forests, by 2050.

In practical terms, the NZDFI aims to develop a valuable, complementary land-use for farmers in the warmer parts of eastern New Zealand where rainfall is low and unreliable.

We Are:

- selecting elite trees from within our diverse genetic resource to provide growers with superior planting stock for NZ drylands
- researching and developing sustainable management systems for growing ground-durable eucalypts to produce high quality hardwood
- developing techniques to screen young trees for desirable wood quality characteristics, so that selection and breeding work can yield the greatest end-use benefits.

The NZDFI is a unique, exciting project with a strong focus on strategic research goals. It is backed by an effective scientific programme, extensive on-farm trials, and an expanding industry network. We have a clear vision to deliver sustainable benefits to New Zealand's dryland farmers.



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