

DATA

COLLECTION AND ESTIMATION

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In 2008, NEFD questionnaires were sent to all known owners and managers with at least 40 hectares of planted production forest. The questionnaire used is shown in Appendix 2. Approximately 2070 were mailed out. A response rate of 86 percent was achieved.

For those owners that did not respond, information supplied previously was re-used if it was available. This means any area that has been harvested since an owner last supplied data will not be captured and recorded, leading to a small overstatement of the area in the older age classes. Conversely, areas restocked after harvesting since their last survey return will be understated in the 2008 NEFD database.

In addition to the data collected in the NEFD surveys, the results from the 2004 AgriQuality (nowASUREQuality) Small Forest Grower Surveys continue to be used in the 2008 database. Details on the methods used by AgriQuality are available in the *Small Forest Grower Survey Report* (AgriQuality NZ, 2005).

»»» NEW PLANTING IMPUTATION

Since 1992, MAF has conducted a new planting (nursery) survey. This new planting survey measures the sale of planting stock from commercial forest nurseries. An estimate of national new planting is calculated from the numbers of seedlings sold. Details of how this survey is operated are described in *Predicting and Measuring New Planting from Nursery Surveys* (Eyre, 1995). This new planting survey provides the most complete indicator of the area of new forest established each year. The methodology was reviewed in 2003 (Manley et al, 2003).

It has been recognised that the areas of new planting were substantially underestimated in the NEFD databases prior to 1995.

In the 2008 NEFD database, adjustments have been made to the areas established between 1992 and 2006 to account for the areas of new planting not collected in the postal surveys. This same method of imputation has been used in the compilation of the NEFD databases since 1995. Table 3.1 shows the comparisons of new planting figures collected in the postal surveys to the total new planting figures.

The national new planting adjustments were distributed into territorial authorities using the proportions indicated from the new planting collected in the postal survey. Table 9.7 (page 24) shows how the adjustments for recent new planting have been distributed across territorial authorities.

Within each territorial authority, the imputed new planting was allocated to NEFD crop types using the postal survey results in the following way.

- › The imputed new planting was allocated into species groups based on the relative proportions of each species group within the one to five year age class.
- › For radiata pine, the imputed new planting was allocated into the four NEFD tending regimes, based on the relative proportion of each of these tending regimes across all the age classes. All the Douglas-fir imputed new planting was allocated to the “without production thinning” tending regime.

Historically, imputed new planting estimates are revised each year, based on any new information on the area of young forest captured directly in the NEFD survey.

»» TABLE 3.1: COMPARISON OF TOTAL NEW PLANTING WITH NEW PLANTING COLLECTED IN POSTAL SURVEYS

CALENDAR YEAR OF PLANTING (HA)	TOTAL NEW PLANTING ¹	NEW PLANTING COLLECTED IN POSTAL SURVEYS ²	NEW PLANTING ADJUSTMENTS ³
1992	50 200	30 900	19 300
1993	61 600	40 400	21 200
1994	98 200	68 400	29 800
1995	73 900	56 200	17 700
1996	83 600	64 600	19 000
1997	63 700	45 600	18 100
1998	51 200	36 300	14 900
1999	40 000	23 700	16 300
2000	33 600	24 700	8 900
2001	30 100	17 100	13 000
2002	22 100	14 300	7 800
2003	19 900	11 800	8 100
2004	10 600	6 200	4 400
2005	6 000	2 900	3 100
2006	2 600	1 500	1 100
2007	2 400	2 400	–

Notes

1. As estimated from the nursery surveys undertaken by the Ministry of Forestry and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.
2. The area of new planting as collected in postal surveys. This does not include the area of restocking.
3. The difference between total new planting and new planting collected in postal surveys.

