



MEDIA RELEASE

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ForestrySA Field Day – Spacing and Genetics of Radiata Pine

ForestrySA research program results and trials were showcased during a field day near Naracoorte on Tuesday, February 9.

The field day was hosted by ForestrySA in conjunction with PIRSA Forestry and attracted about 20 industry representatives, despite very hot conditions.

The field day began at Struan House where trial results were presented, before moving on to trial sites within the Cave Range Forest Reserve and at Langkoop.

Trials covered included: Testing various stockings at a range of various stockings from 740, 901, 1190 to 1660 stems per hectare; a spacing and planting stocking trial comparing cuttings vs. seedlings stocked at 1100, 1330, 1660 stems per hectare; a site preparation trial comparing spot cultivation with ploughing, a radiata pine genetic performance trial and initiator tree fertiliser tablet trial.

ForestrySA Research Coordinator Wayne Richardson said the focus of the field day was silvicultural practice and genetic performance of radiata pine in lower rainfall areas.

“The trials visited were established to help formulate plantation best practice to meet the challenge of producing economically and environmentally sustainable growth under changing climatic conditions,” Mr Richardson said.

“The trial results highlighted that in lower rainfall areas there are significant survival and growth differences between different radiata pine genetic material which may not be evident in higher rainfall areas.

“This is an important factor to consider when allocating planting stock to specific regions if maximum survival and optimal tree growth is to be achieved.”

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