



# Factsheet

## Ripping

### Why

- To shatter the soil, allowing the roots of seedlings to establish quickly before the on-set of summer.
- To increase water penetration and storage around the roots of the tree seedlings.
- To increase early survival and growth of seedlings.
- In those years with tough springs (most) ripping can make the difference between success and failure.

### Where

- Where-ever tree establishment is to be done ripping is worthwhile. Deep sand is the only soil type which may not always benefit from ripping.

### When

- To shatter the solid it needs to be fairly dry. Late Autumn is the time when the soil is moist enough to penetrate with a tyne, but will still shatter.
- If left too late the ripper tyne will slice the soil, leaving a smooth sided chasm, rather than a wide area of shattered soil. This will make the site worse for tree establishment than if nothing were done.
- The ideal time for ripping is also the ideal time for cropping. Plan to cope with this clash, don't be too late.

### Avoid

- Dragging up heaps of clay and sub-soil.
- Ripping up and down steep slopes. If this has to be done break the rip-line frequently, other-wise a nasty eroded, gully will result.
- Ripping saturated soil. Two tractor wheel furrows with a chasm in between will not yield good results.

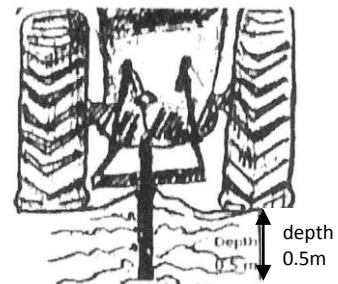
### Mounding

- This is routinely used in forestry projects, and can dramatically increase early growth rates of young trees. Our weed control systems and tree seeding equipment do not perform well on mounds. If maximized timber productivity for forestry is your

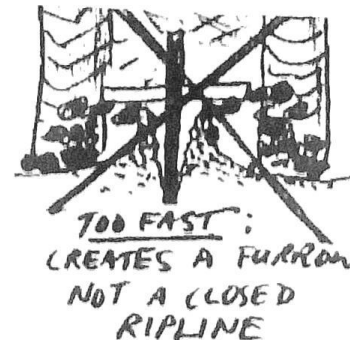
aim, then rip, mound and employ some-one else to establish seedlings there.

### How

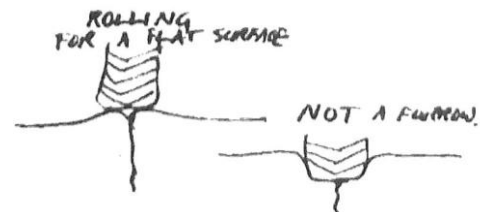
- Rip to a depth of 30 to 50 cm minimum.
- The tractor should be working, jerking along with occasional wheel slippage.



- Ground movement (shattering) should be occurring out to the wheels of the tractor.



- Drive slowly (walking speed or less), otherwise soil may be thrown away from the rip-line, creating a furrow, which is no good for seeding into.
- One pass is best. Use weights to push the ripper in or wait for a little more soil moisture rather than do multiple passes which will create a wide furrow.



- After ripping drive a wide wheel over the rip-line to flatten and consolidate the rip-lines. Be careful not to create a furrow when rolling. A slight mound is best; it will settle to flat by seeding time in spring.