

LAND MANAGEMENT

CONSERVATION TREES

Planting Poplar and Willow Poles

Main points

- Ensure poles are planted where they will grow - moist areas.
- Plant deep - at least 60-70cm.
- Ensure the protectors stay in place.
- Keep the pole tight - if it is loose, roots will break and the pole will die.
- Remove dead material - look after your investment.

Video Available

A video on planting and looking after poles is available from the Regional Council. It can be borrowed free of charge, or purchased for \$11 plus postage.

Pole protection

All poles planted in paddocks where animals will graze must have protection. Cattle should be kept out of the paddock for at least a year, but preferably two or three years. Do not plant poles in paddocks having or likely to have goats or deer.



A Dynex sleeve protecting a 2 year old Argyle Poplar.

There are two kinds of pole protection sleeves, Netlon and Dynex.

Netlon Sleeves

Netlon sleeves are 1.1m or 1.7m long and are used to protect the pole from stock damage. The Netlon should be attached before planting. Slide the sleeve from the butt end so the base of the sleeve is 60 - 70cm from the butt, and staple top and bottom on alternate sides using a batten staple. If the Netlon is not stapled, the sleeve will be 'rubbed up' and the pole ring barked.

Netlon sleeves are generally used in 'sheep only' paddocks. They are not a suitable protection in areas to be grazed by cattle.



This Netlon protected pole is being re-rammed correctly. Ram at an angle and about an inch out from the base of the pole to ensure the pole is not damaged.

Dynex sleeves

Dynex sleeves are 1.7m long and can be slipped over a pole after planting. They do not need stapling. Use Dynex sleeves for added protection where cattle are farmed.

Pole planting

There are many ways to plant poles, but the most effective are ramming and digging.

Ramming

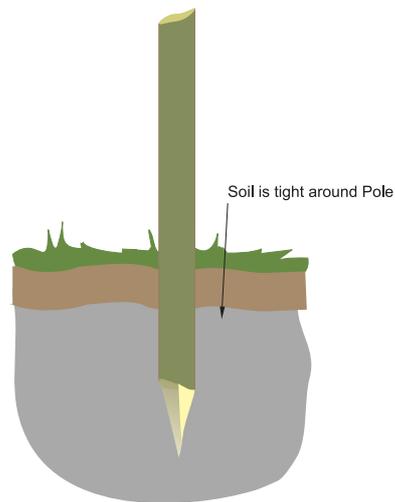
Lay out the poles at the planting sites, and sharpen the butt end of the poles carefully using an axe or slasher. Bore a pilot hole with a crowbar or attachment on a rammer. The diameter must be smaller than that of the pole. Drive the pole into the pilot hole using a standard pole rammer. Drive the pole in until the Netlon sleeve is at ground level. The pole must be driven at least 60cm into the ground.

Digging

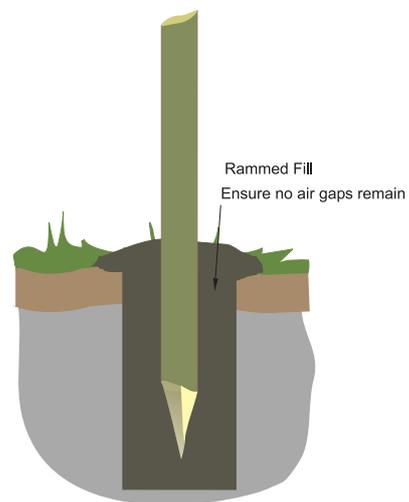
Dig a normal post hole, place the pole in the centre of the hole, and fill and ram. Ensure the bark is not damaged in any way. Ram the pole evenly from the bottom to the top at ground level. This will help prevent drying out in late spring to early summer, and protect against sheep rubbing the pole. Any movement of the pole or air gaps created by stock rubbing will ultimately cause roots to break, the pole to dry out, and then the pole will die.

Re-ramming the soil around the base of the pole

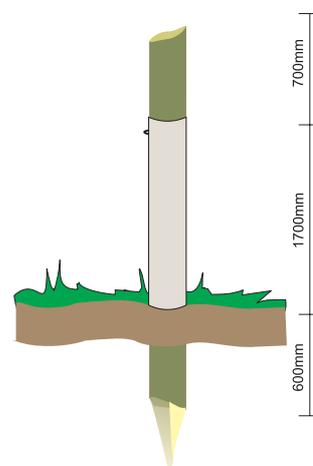
Check poles early in their first summer to make sure they are still tight, especially those that were dug in. They may need to be re-rammed.



Pole Rammed



Pole "Dug and Rammed"



Pole with 1.7m sleeve

Ensure poles are planted deep - at least 60-70cm

For further information

For further information on planting poplars or willows, ask for the other titles in this series or contact Land Management Officers at Hawke's Bay Regional Council for advice.

Wairoa	06 838 8527
Napier	06 835 9200
Waipukurau	06 858 8636
TOLL FREE	0800 108 808

www.hbrc.govt.nz