

Landowners

Is tree planting for you?

Trees provide

- timber for building houses
- timber for export
- firewood
- shelter and shade

Do you need trees for any of those purposes?

If so then this is what you need to do

1. Plan where you are going to plant. Remember **it will be at least 15 – 25 years before the trees will be ready to harvest.** Leave land for gardens and cash crops. Plan for population growth.



Photo 1

This photo shows a well-planned and well-managed 2yr old teak plantation.

The good soil near the stream has been left for gardening. Land further away from the village has been used for trees.

2. Choose the species that will suit your land. Some options are



Photo 2

Mahogany

These trees on Guadalcanal are 26yrs old.

Mahogany will grow in shade so can be planted in logged-over forest or under coconuts.

It is a very good building and furniture timber. Can be exported as sawn timber.



Photo 3

Teak

These trees on Guadalcanal are also 26 years old.

Teak needs full sunlight to grow so is suitable for areas that have no trees like grasslands, old gardens and roadside areas cleared during logging. It is not good to clear forest to plant teak – better to use mahogany

3. Get good seed or good quality seedlings. The Forest Officer in your Provincial capital or any forestry station will be able to sell the best quality seed. You can buy seedlings from other but check that they got their seed from a good source (FD).
4. Look after your trees. It is important to keep your young trees weeded. Weeds will slow down their growth and may spoil their shape and future value. The trees in **Photo 1** have been well weeded and sweet potato has planted to control weeds and to provide food.
5. When the trees are bigger then you can either use them yourself or export them. Remember that trees will need to be more than 12-15 years old before they will be useful for timber. You will be able to get firewood sooner than this.



Photo 4

Teak logs being loaded into a container for export. It takes about 12-15 years for trees to produce logs of this size. These Guadalcanal landowners received about \$20,000 for this container. Their costs for cutting the trees down, transporting them to Honiara and loading into the container added up to about \$6,000. The profit on one container was about \$14,000.



Photo 5

This 26 yr old mahogany tree is being cut up using a Lucas Mill. This timber was sold to a Honiara furniture maker.

For further information see your local Provincial Forestry Extension officers