

# Density and plantation scenario: What means are provided for post-planting care in the plantation?

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*Post-planting care is crucial for the success of plantations. Growers must assess their maintenance capabilities and possibilities, possibly trimming, pruning or thinning, before selecting a particular scenario and hence a planting density.*



Examples of a timeline of operations over the years (highlighted) on a plantation, dependent on post-planting care modes

Plantation 2013			
Years	Maintenance		
2014			
2015			
2016			
2017			
2018			
2019			
2020			
2021			
2022			
2023			
2024			
2025			
2026			
2027			
2028			
2029			
...			

Before embarking on a planting project, prospective growers must determine the type of post-planting care to be practised during the first 15 years and the means to be allocated. A choice of three profiles is proposed for this purpose:

**1. regular, intensive post-planting care** including:  
 - at least one intervention per year for at least 15 years,  
 - several interventions are often needed during the first 3 to 5 years.  
 → **This arboricultural type of post-planting care profile corresponds to a « timber orchard » scenario.**

**2. intermediate post-planting care** including:  
 - one or more interventions per year for 3 to 5 years,  
 - followed by three to six interventions at 2 to 3 year intervals.  
 → **This active forest management type of post-planting care profile corresponds to an assisted forest plantation scenario.**

**3. flexible post-planting care** including:  
 - one or more interventions per year for 3 to 5 years,  
 - followed by two to three interventions at 3 to 5 year intervals.  
 → **This classic forestry type of post-planting care profile corresponds to a forest plantation scenario.**



There are various implications for establishing the plantation depending on the profile of the grower, particularly with regard to the choice of density of the seedlings and the species composition.

*The establishment and post-planting care scenarios corresponding to each profile are detailed in the following sheets.*



**Attention:** if no intervention is planned after the first 4 or 5 years, the production of high-quality timber is very unpredictable and it is better not to plant at all!