



PLANTATION PROCEDURE 116 HARVESTING (Crop Tree Damage Assessment)



1. PURPOSE / OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure that the Authorised Officer has a clear understanding of the procedure for monitoring and managing crop tree damage during harvesting and that the Contractor makes every effort during all phases of harvesting to protect marked retained crop trees from physical damage. Physical damage is any damage resulting in one or more of the following:

- Exposure of more than 100cm² of cambium on the bole of a crop tree;
- felling, breaking, or uprooting of a crop tree; or
- removal of more than 30% of the crown of a crop tree.

The objective is for less than 5% of crop trees found to be damaged during the harvesting operation.

A number of operation controls available to the Authorised Officer are attached as Appendix 1.

General management objectives are to:

- Maintain site productive capacity within operational areas through management of appropriate harvesting methods; ;
- To minimise crop tree damage resulting from thinning operations within plantations; and
- To improve site timber quality for future harvest events

2. PROCEDURE

Principles

All harvesting including felling, extraction, processing, stockpiling, loading and haulage is to be carried out without damage to retained standing trees. Where standing trees are damaged by a contractor, that contractor shall be liable for such damage at rates determined by the General Manager or as stipulated in the contractor's Harvesting & Haulage Production Contract. Any such damaged trees shall remain the property of the FPC

The Authorised Officer must:

- Ensure that Harvesting contractors make every effort during all phases of harvesting to protect retained crop trees from physical damage
- Provide copies of crop tree damage assessments to the Contractor and bush supervisor in a timely manner

3. MONITORING AND MEASUREMENT

Monitoring of crop tree damage assessment will occur through regular inspections during harvest operations in particular:

- Reporting through IForm [Harvesting and Inspection Action Sheet \(Plantations\) \(FPC106\)](#) during site visits and;
- Completion of the IForm [Field Assessment of Crop Tree Damage \(FPC402\)](#). Both of these forms will be downloaded and stored in the relevant Plantation and Contractor file,



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- If more than 5% of crop trees assessed are damaged, then the harvesting contractor will receive an [EMS Incident and Action Report \(FPC80\)](#). If the harvesting contractor continues to receive EMS Incident and Action Reports for crop tree damage it will be considered a Breach of Contract.

4. LEGISLATION AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Code of Practice for Timber Harvesting in Western Australia - CALM 1999)
- Forest Management Plan 2014 – 2023

5. APPENDICES

Guidelines

1. Harvesting contractors must make every effort during all phases of harvesting to protect marked crop trees from physical damage;
2. Periodical assessments of crop tree damage will be carried out by an FPC Authorised Officer using the [Field Assessment of Crop Tree Damage Form \(FPC402\)](#). In carrying out these assessments, a sample of at least 100 crop trees in a given compartment will be assessed. Trees selected will cover at least eight planting rows across the compartment. Copies of all crop tree damage assessments will be forwarded to the bush representative of the harvesting contractor;
3. If more than 5% of crop trees assessed are damaged, then the harvesting contractor will receive an EMS Incident and Action Report (FPC80). If the harvesting contractor continues to receive EMS Incident and Action Reports for crop tree damage it will be considered a Breach of Contract. The contractor may be charged for all damaged trees in that feller's block at rates determined from time to time by the General Manager or as stipulated in the contractor's Harvesting & Haulage Production Contract. Any penalties will be charged at the discretion of the General Manager and such damaged trees shall remain the property of the FPC; and
4. All harvesting including felling, extraction, processing, stockpiling, loading and haulage is to be carried out without damage to retained standing trees. Where standing trees are damaged by a contractor, that contractor shall be liable for such damage at rates determined by the General Manager or as stipulated in the contractor's Harvesting & Haulage Production Contract. Any such damaged trees shall remain the property of the FPC.