

5

How to maintain and manage a planting

Summary box

- It is important to regularly check a planting for weeds, and then control them.
- Dead trees and fallen logs make excellent habitat features and should be left in a planting wherever possible.
- Intensive livestock grazing is generally detrimental to the understorey of a planting and to biodiversity. Fences should be checked regularly and repaired where necessary to control grazing pressure.

Plantings require ongoing management after they have been established. In this chapter we discuss the need for ongoing weed control, why it is important to retain dead and fallen trees, and why livestock grazing should be controlled in plantings.

Weeding

The extent of weed problems in a planting depends largely on how well they were suppressed prior to establishment, and also how well weeds are controlled on the rest of the farm and on neighbouring properties. Weed control is not always easy in a planting, especially where there is a high density of plants, such as in ecosystem restoration plantings or where direct seeding was used for establishment.

Herbicides need to be applied carefully, as native plants can be susceptible to their effects. Most native grasses, for example, die if glyphosate (a relatively mild