



**Leaving Cert Agricultural
Science**

Free Notes

Forestry



Forestry

Q) Name two common trees used in forestry:

- Sitka spruce and Lodgepole Pine
- Commercial forestry coniferous trees are used as they have a very fast growth rate and grow well on poorly treated soils. In forestry fertiliser application is not an issue or priority, only if soils are lower than pH 5.5 the available phosphate is not available. A straight fertiliser is added in this situation. At a 100g/tree rate roughly.

Q) What are the main steps in planting forestry?

1. Drain off land if wet, the trees are planted on mounds of earth
2. On wetter land they are planted simply into the ground
3. Ground rock phosphates are added during planting
4. After 20 years a process of thinning is carried out.
5. Trees are cut and used as timber for industry
6. The left over stumps are treated chemically and disintegrate over time.

Q) What is meant by thinning and what is its importance?

- Poor quality trees are removed and the stronger healthier trees are given priority.
- This leads to less competition with the larger better trees hence their growth rates increase.

Q) Why are trees planted 2 meters apart?

- Gives a better standard of selection. The better trees will over succeed the poorer trees.
- Close planting makes sure trees grow more upwards instead of outwards hence there are less knots on the timber.

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