

TREES FOR R AT CONTROL — TREE PLANTING TIPS

Planting trees in harbourage areas will help you to control rats on your farm. If you are thinking of planting trees, here are some tips that will improve your results.

1. Spray grasses and weeds before planting.

This reduces the soil seed bank of weeds and makes control of weeds easier once the trees are planted.

2. Plant trees at 1.5 m spacings.

This will help establish a closed canopy very quickly. The sooner a closed canopy is formed, the sooner you will achieve a maintenance free site.

3. Choose the right trees.

On headland areas, choose trees with a pole-like growth. This avoids branches growing over headlands and interfering with machinery.

4. Apply fertiliser.

Apply fertilisers at the planting stage and before/during the wet season. This increases plant growth and gives seedlings the opportunity to become established and reduce weed growth.

5. Control weeds.

Controlling grasses and weeds over the first two years helps you get the best tree growth possible by reducing competition.