There are four main types of forests on land designated for timber production in Tasmania. Broadly, they can be described as:

- Wet eucalypt forests
- Dry eucalypt forests
- Rainforests
- Blackwood forests.

Sustainable Timber Tasmania uses different methods to grow, manage, harvest, and regrow each forest type, based on their ecology, scientific research and other important considerations, such as worker safety.

**Harvesting in wet eucalypt forests**

In nature, wet eucalypt forests generally rely on a large bushfire to regenerate. These bushfires remove the canopy, enable sunlight to reach the forest floor, reveal a mineral earth seedbed, start natural seedfall and allow the seedlings to grow with reduced competition and predation from other species.

Sustainable Timber Tasmania uses clearfelling and aggregated retention to harvest timber from these forests to achieve the best regeneration results.

**Clearfelling** removes most trees and provides the light conditions the eucalypt seedlings require for germination and growth. Sustainable Timber Tasmania then uses a high-intensity burn to create a receptive seedbed, which is broadcast sown with collected seed.
A seed management system is used to ensure all harvested areas are re-sown with eucalypt seed that matches the species mix and provenance of the original forest.

Pesticides and fertilisers are generally not used in the regeneration process.

While clearfelling is generally the preferred method of harvesting in wet eucalypt forests, aggregated retention is used in production forests with special significance. This technique is operationally more difficult but is used to provide greater habitat connectivity between forest edges and the regenerating coupe.

**Harvesting in dry eucalypt forests**

Dry eucalypt forests are generally more open and do not have a dense wet understorey. As a result, sunlight can reach the forest floor enabling seedlings to establish to fill gaps in the canopy. These forests do not need to be clearfelled to produce the right conditions to enable regrowth of harvested trees.

Sustainable Timber Tasmania therefore uses a range of partial harvesting methods in dry eucalypt forests. These methods rely on seed falling to the ground from retained trees to regenerate harvested areas.

**Harvesting in rainforests**

Sustainable Timber Tasmania only undertakes limited harvesting in rainforest areas, for special species timber such as celery top pine, myrtle and sassafras. Selective harvesting techniques are used in these forests. As rainforests regenerate naturally without major disturbance, regeneration burning is not required.

**Harvesting in blackwood forests**

Blackwoods occur in two forest types:

- Blackwood swamps
- Blackwood-rich wet eucalypt forest.

Clearfelling is used to harvest both types of blackwood forests for the same reason as in wet eucalypt forests. Blackwood seedlings regenerate naturally following major disturbance such as bushfire, floods or windthrow. In blackwood-rich eucalypt forests, a high-intensity regeneration burn follows harvesting to provide the best regeneration conditions.

In blackwood swamps, a low-intensity burn may be used, although the disturbance from harvesting alone can also be sufficient for the seedlings to grow. A temporary fence is also used to protect the seedlings from browsing mammals.

**More information**

‘Clearfelling’ fact sheet No10

Forestry Tasmania (2010) Native forest silviculture technical bulletin no. 5: Silvicultural systems for native eucalypt forests.

Available at www.sttas.com.au