

NOP COMPLIANT FENCING HARDWOOD FORESTRY

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Hardwood forestry planting began in 1991. At that time I was excited about the potential of producing hardwood timber for the time when the tropical rainforests got closed up. I'm still waiting for this... but luckily most of the species I planted here are also good for durable posts.



12 year old *E. muelleriana*, canopy height 25m.



Durable Eucalyptus species are common amongst the

genus, but care must be taken as some of the more common Euc. species planted in NZ have very little natural durability. Some of the most durable species unfortunately take a very long time to produce heartwood. Sapwood is never durable. Young NZ grown trees closely related to the 'stringybark group' (*E. muelleriana*, *globoidea*, *pilularis* etc) can have better heartwood formation than tree 2 or 3 times their age in other Eucalyptus subfamilies.

We have used limited quantities of untreated timber for years. Top branches of *E. globoidea* cut in 1974, this post has been in this site since 1978. There is about 10-15mm of degrade around the outside of the post at ground level after 36 years.



Posts cut for netting fences, these have been in use for over 15 years with minimal degrade.



Testing young heartwood. 12 yr old *E. muelleriana* strainer posts for two wire electric fence. It is unclear if young heartwood has the same durability as old heartwood. CSIRO and NZDFI are both researching this at present. Some CSIRO research suggests heartwood is the same regardless of age.



55x55x1400mm timber for runner posts cut from 23yr old E. globoidea. Staples work well when the timber is green, tech screws are easier for dry timber.



Tech screws holding insulators on 20yr old *E. botryoides* posts. We do not bother removing bark any more. Bark falls off within 2 years, then sapwood rots at about the same rate as the soil fills in around the post. This post should last at least 25-30 years.



Our forest blocks are on marginal parts of the farm. This is a very sustainable land use for potentially eroding land.

12yr old *E. muelleriana* of good form, never been pruned. Height over 20m.



Native forest re-establishing under the trees.

