

STUDY OF EFFECTIVENESS OF TWO WEED MANAGEMENT METHODS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INDIGENOUS TIMBER SPECIES IN THE GRASS INFESTED WET ZONE LANDS

D Tilakaratna

Research Officer, Forest Research Centre,
Kumbalpole.

The effectiveness of two manual weed control methods were studied for the establishment of four timber species in a grass infested wet zone land. One method was the standard weeding practice used for plantation establishment by Forest Department. (Low slashing and strip weeding 3 times during the 1st year, 2 times during the 2nd year and one low slashing and patch weeding during the third year). The other is high intensity (luxury) weeding involving complete cultivation of the topsoil. Fourteen months observations and survival and height measurements were recorded.

Results indicate that three species, *Artocarpus nobilis*, *Artocarpus heterophyllus* and *Filicium decipiens* failed to successfully establish and grow under both weeding methods. Other species, *Dipterocarpus zeylanicus* although established showed poor growth and vigour. The slight improvement of survival and growth under luxury weeding does not justify the cost involved.