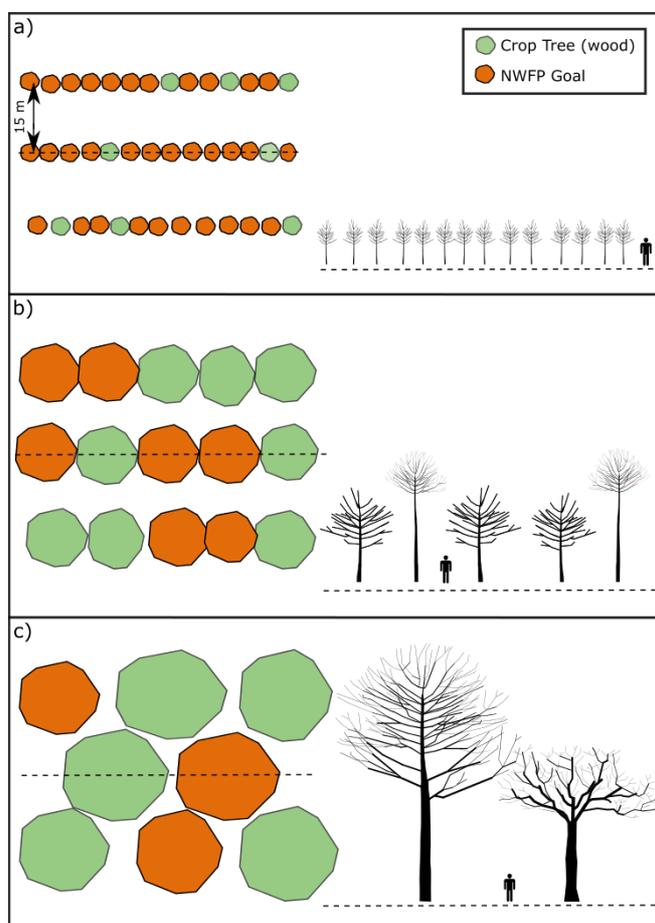


Managing forests for multiple purposes

Prizing the cherry or the cherry tree?

It is generally understood that if you want to produce high quality timber for veneer production, you can bid farewell to a bumper harvest of plump cherries ripe for the commercial market: the trade-offs between the two production systems are simply too large.

Yet StarTree research shows that by retaining the focus on wood production, but adding some key silvicultural guidelines, the production of cherries alongside timber can have advantages for the land holder, especially if there is a direct usage for the fruit. For the production of lower grade timber, an element of compromise can certainly be considered.



Recipe: 2nd class trees* for 1st class cherries

Ingredients:

- Good quality trees for wood production
- Medium quality trees for fruit production, plus lower quality wood at the end of the rotation

Method:

- Establish cherry trees in rows with a distance of 15m between the rows (a).
- When 10–15 m high, select and prune potential crop trees (b).
- Prune 3–4 times until the branch free bole length reaches 1/3 of the final tree height (c).
- Meanwhile, formatively prune 2nd class trees - create an open and spreading crown and prevent height growth (b, c). *This promotes fruit production!*
- Thin weaker neighbours to gain better light excess for the remaining trees.

Note:

It is important to ensure unhindered crown development of the crop trees destined for timber production.

This means that the number of fruit trees is reduced during the second half of the rotation period.

*2nd class trees:

Those displaying poor form and below optimal diameter growth.

StarTree results suggest that the dual system shown here requires less compromise from individual crop trees that show superior stem form and diameter growth. This means that the land holder does not deviate from the long term goal of producing timber.

Want to know more? [Read the whole report!](#)

