

## Regulation of treefern harvesting in Tasmania

Harvesting of treeferns is regulated through Tasmania's forest practices system. The following information summarises guidelines for the harvesting of trunked treeferns in Tasmania. The *Tasmanian Treefern Management Plan* has been developed by the Tasmanian and Commonwealth Governments to facilitate the legal and sustainable harvest and export of *Dicksonia antarctica* (manfern or soft treefern).

Treeferns may be propagated from spores in Tasmanian nurseries and subsequently sold and exported. Most of the following notes do not apply to treeferns propagated and sold as seedlings in nurseries.

### What treeferns can be harvested?

- Under the terms of the *Forest Practices Act 1985*, the only trunked treefern that can be harvested or traded is *Dicksonia antarctica* (manfern or soft treefern).
- Two of Tasmania's treefern species (*Cyathea cunninghamii* and *Cyathea Xmarcescens*) are protected under the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*.

### Where is treefern harvesting permitted?

- Treeferns can only be harvested from an area covered by a Forest Practices Plan (FPP). Forest Practices Plans must be certified by a Forest Practices Officer and signed by the landowner.
- Treefern harvesting is only permitted where prescribed in FPPs that cover the following forestry activities and within one year of operations commencing:
  - native forest to be converted to another land use
  - native forest to be intensively logged and regenerated – clearfell, burn and sow or aggregated retention
  - future harvesting of existing softwood and hardwood plantations
  - harvesting of treefern plantations or nursery sites.
- Forest Practices Officers must estimate the numbers of treeferns available for harvesting within the FPP area and give this number on the FPP coversheet.
- No harvesting of treeferns is permitted within streamside reserves, machinery exclusion zones, swamps, habitat clumps or other areas excluded from harvest. Harvesters should make sure that all reserved areas have been marked with flagging tape so that they are not subject to treefern harvesting.
- Treefern harvesters must understand and follow the requirements of the FPP, as it is a legal document.
- A compliance report must be prepared by a Forest Practices Officer and lodged with the Forest Practices Authority within 30 days of completion of the FPP. Treefern harvesters should obtain a copy of the compliance report.

### **Treefern Tags:**

- A Tasmanian Treefern Tag must be attached to each treefern harvested within the area specified under the FPP. Treefern Tags are issued by the Forest Practices Authority.
- A Treefern Tag Request Form can be obtained from the Forest Practices Officer. The completed form, along with the required payment and a copy of the FPP coversheet must be sent to the Forest Practices Authority for tags to be issued. The number of Treefern Tags must not exceed the number of treeferns specified on the FPP coversheet.
- All harvested treeferns must have a Treefern Tag securely attached at the point of harvest, and before being removed from the area covered under the FPP. The attachment of Treefern Tags to treeferns is the sole responsibility of the harvester.
- Treefern Tags must not be removed, swapped or used more than once at any stage in the harvest, transport or trading process.

### **Distribution and sale of treeferns:**

- All treeferns that are distributed and sold must be tagged with a Tasmanian Treefern Tag issued by the Forest Practices Authority. Distributors and retailers should keep a record of the supplier of ferns, date supplied and Treefern Tag numbers.
- The overseas export of trunked and nursery raised treeferns requires an export permit from the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Water. This department must be contacted for export permits and further information on exporting treeferns.

### **Exemptions for personal use:**

- A FPP is not required for the harvesting of treeferns if the owner of the applicable land has consented, and no more than six treeferns are harvested on each property during one year. The treeferns must be for personal use only and must not be used for commercial purposes. Tags are not required provided these provisions are met.

### **Penalties:**

- The Forest Practices Authority has considerable powers under the Forest Practices Act to control treefern harvesting to ensure that such harvesting meets the objectives of the *Tasmanian Treefern Management Plan*.
- Failure to comply with the Forest Practices Act and Forest Practices Regulations can result in substantial penalties.
- Failure to comply with treefern harvesting requirements of the Treefern Management Plan or Forest Practices Act, including the distribution or sale of untagged or incorrectly tagged treeferns, should be reported to the Forest Practices Authority immediately.

### **Further information:**

For further information contact the Forest Practices Authority, Forestry Tasmania, Private Forests Tasmania or forest companies.

**Table 1:** Summary of regulatory system for treefern harvesting in Tasmania

Type of treefern harvesting	Source of treeferns	Forestry operation	Conditions for treefern harvesting	FPA notification required	FPP req'd	Tree-fern tags req'd	Compliance report required
Commercial	Native forest	Native forest to be converted or cleared	As per harvesting prescriptions	Yes, prior to harvesting	Yes	Yes	Yes
Commercial	Native forest	Native forest to be regenerated	Consultation with FPA prior to harvesting	Yes, prior to harvesting	Yes	Yes	Yes
Commercial	Existing timber plantations	Future harvesting of plantation timber	Consultation with FPA prior to harvesting	Yes, prior to harvesting	Yes	Yes	Yes
Commercial	Tree fern plantations or nursery sites	Tree fern harvesting	Consultation with FPA prior to establishment and harvesting	Yes, prior to harvesting	Yes	Yes	Yes
Non-commercial	Native forest or other	None	Six or less ferns harvested for non-commercial purposes*	No	No	No	No

\*Consult the Forest Practices Regulations for clarification.

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1	2007	Simon Davies	Document creation
1.1	Feb 2011	Nina Roberts	FPA logo updated, footer added, document control information added. The wording is otherwise identical to that released in 2007.
1.2	Jan 2012	Chris Grove	Clarification that tags are not required as long as exemptions are met and addition of Table 1.