Advisory Service of the Chamber of Agriculture

Karl Schuster Department of Forestry landwirtschaftskammer niederösterreich

Organization of the Advisory of Lower Austria

Forest service in the districts - federal state and Chamber of agriculture

NGO – Land&Forst for bigger companies (mostly legal advice and advocacy)

NGO – Forest owner association (wood sales and joint purchasing)

Private companies – civil engineers (management concepts and forest maps)



Main Tasks of the Chamber (Department of Forestry)

(Forest)Advisory

- Reforestation
- Thinning
- Logging
- Subsidies
- Wood sales
- Forest education
- Forest road building
- Forest maps

Advocacy

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- We help the farmers and forest-owners in all aspects of their work
- We give assistance in public authorities
- We inform customers about products and about the work in the forest

The farmers in Austria have to be member of the Chamber and have to pay for membership, so most of the advisory is for free.



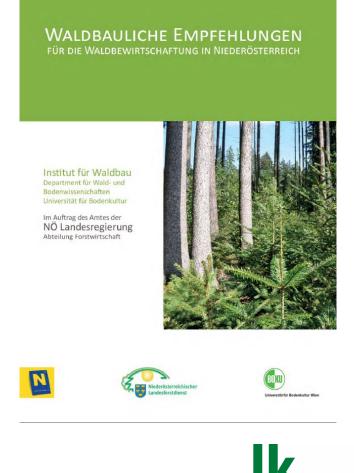
Basis for advisory - Guidelines for Silviculture

"Bible" of Silviculture for Lower Austria

Only recommendations, but also the basis for the subsidies

Created by the University of Agriculture (Hochbichler), the federal state forest and the Chamber of Agriculture

Financed by the federal state forest



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Challenges for the advisors

Some forest owners will do nothing – no reforestation (from forest law: time for reforestation is 5 year, for natural regeneration 10 years)

Some forest owners only plant spruce and pine again

Many small forest owners have no forest knownledge and are completly overstrained – after the reforestation we will have the next problem with pruning for quality production

There are only few check areas where people can look at the different stadiums of cultivation

The small structure of the forest plots (mostly under 1 hectare)

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How do the forest owners get the information?

Newspapers of the Chamber

Website of the Chamber and the federal state

On major and smaller events with forest tours

On regular table sessions

With webinars and films

group advisory

single advisory landwirtschaftskammer niederösterreich

Forest subsidies for reforestation

	Standard costs per plant in Euro	Percent of subsidies
spruce	1,70	60 – 80 %, it depends on the region (Forest developing plan)
fir	3,10	
other needle species	2,50	
broad leeve trees	3,50	
bushes	5,50 - 6,40	
seldom species	6,80	
weeding	1,00	
mulching	1400 per ha	
fencing	6 – 15 per meter	
Bark beetle damage payments	3.500 € per ha	For 2018 and 2019 (with Satellite pictures)