

Commercial Redwood Forests of New Zealand

Denis Kelleher, Southern Hemisphere Investment Partners [SHIP], Level 6, 12 Viaduct Harbour Avenue, The Viaduct, Auckland 1010 New Zealand; (NZ) 64 (0) 21 024 14313; shipltd@icloud.com

James Rydelius, Southern Hemisphere Investment Partners [SHIP], Level 6, 12 Viaduct Harbour Avenue, The Viaduct, Auckland 1010 New Zealand; (US) (707) 668-5363; shipltd@icloud.com

New Zealand is a country located in the southwestern Pacific Ocean. It has world-class commercial forestry and infrastructure. Areas of New Zealand have the same latitudes south of the equator as the natural range of California coastal redwoods do north of the equator.

New Zealand has some of the fastest softwood growth rates of major wood producing countries in the world. This is mainly explained by newly established or replanted commercial forests employing improved planting stock, good rainfall in the summer and fertile soil types

Measurement of existing redwoods in New Zealand has led to the development of growth models estimating yield for newly established commercial redwood forests. While dependent on site specific attributes, these models generally estimate newly established New Zealand commercial redwood forests will have the same log volume in 30 years of growth as California redwood forests have in their first 60 years of growth.

New Zealand redwood timber will generally have larger growth rings than similarly aged California trees, and may also have some color variation, depending on where the original seed was sourced. Redwood timber from New Zealand has been successfully sold into the United States market with no noted consumer dissatisfaction.

Many commercial redwood forests in New Zealand are established using clonal redwood stock. Form, branching and growth characteristics are important attributes in selecting attractive stock.

Commercial forest redwood trees in New Zealand are generally pruned (lower branches of trees are removed), so knot-free wood will be produced. Pruned redwoods from New Zealand will produce large amounts of knot free redwood timber. This may allow the re-introduction of a significant clearwood supply of redwood timber into the California and US market, commanding premium prices. SHIP is currently doing large-scale pruning of commercial redwood forests in New Zealand.