



Figure 9. Oak (4 year old).



Figure 10. Douglas fir (4 year old).

#### 9.18.4 Fences, Roads, Firebreaks, Drains, Sediment traps, etc.

All fences, roads, firebreaks, drains, sediment traps etc. should be in good working order.

#### 9.18.5 Formative shaping

Formative shaping of broadleaves is an ongoing integral part of plantation maintenance and is included in the afforestation grant scheme. It is necessary to have this operation complete at 2nd installment stage for ash and sycamore.

It may be necessary to shape oak and beech prior to 2nd installment stage. Where oak or beech plantations have been successfully established by a Forestry Company which is mandated the 2nd installment grant and are deemed not yet ready for shaping a Form 3 may be submitted by that company with a declaration that formative shaping to Forest Service standards will be carried out at a specified time period at the forestry companies expense.

Formative shaping should occur when the trees are between 1m and 2m in height and when completed should give a minimum of 60% of Grade 1 and Grade 2 plants evenly distributed throughout the plantation (see Figure 13).

Conifers after suffering a late spring frost attack may produce multiple leaders. It is important that rather than replacing these trees that they are formatively shaped to leave one leader on each stem. If only a small proportion of the crop (<5%) is affected it may not be necessary to carry out this operation.

#### 9.18.6 Pests and Diseases

In addition to the section in Form 3 relating to establishment problems, please contact your local Forestry Inspector directly if any unusual pest or disease is observed.

Forest plantations should be adequately fenced to ensure that trespass does not occur from livestock. For comprehensive information on Forest Protection see Forest Protection Guidelines published by the Forest Service.