**Natural Regeneration**

If a forestry company is practising a reforestation method known as natural regeneration, they will prepare the site using a process known as drag scarification. This method of site preparation involves dragging chains or drums behind a tractor or skidder. This exposes soil on the forest floor, spreads around cones (which contain seeds) and provides appropriate areas for seed germination and seedling development. As a result, the forest regenerates on its own. This technique is most often practised in lodgepole pine forests that produce huge amounts of cones which open up to release seeds. Approximately 15% of harvested areas in Alberta are reforested by natural regeneration.