



Plants

Habitat

REVEGETATION / SHELTER PLANTING

The aim of this set of notes is to help with planning and implementing your revegetation / shelter planting project.

For more detail see *notes for the tree planter* No 1 - 3.

PLANNING

Start planning at least 12 months ahead of actually planting.

- Think about your objectives and rank them (e.g shelter, biodiversity / wildlife habitat, screening, amenity, food, timber...).
- Consider site issues (e.g. existing vegetation, microclimate, soil type, wildlife pressure, fire hazards, erosion hazards...).
- Determine the species mix, provenance and number of seedlings required.
- Place an order with your nursery before end of Oct. for planting the following season (April – August). Earlier if specific provenance seed needs collecting for the project.

WEED CONTROL

Get this right and you are half way there.

- Reduce competition from other plants for the first 2 years.
- Start 6 – 12 months before planting time.
- Remove all competing vegetation within 1-2m diameter around each plant. Consider the seed bank in the soil.
- Herbicides and/or heavy mulching are the only methods that give the necessary long term control.
- Mulch mats are useful to control weeds immediately around the seedling i.e. inside tree guards.
- Slashing, grazing, burning and cultivation are useful additional tools but no substitute for herbicides or heavy mulching to give long term control.

WEED CONTROL continued...

- Before using herbicides make sure you know what you are doing!

Follow the label instructions and remember that the label is a legal document and must be followed when using any agricultural chemical. It is illegal to use a chemical for a purpose that is not described on the label, unless a permit has been obtained through the National Registration Authority.

If uncertain with any of the above - seek professional advice!

CULTIVATION

Plants grow much faster in loose soil! Planting is also much faster!

- Shatter the hard surface and/or hardpan below.
- Create a good tilth.
- Do it while it is dry or just moist (cultivating wet soil is foolish).
- In high erosion risk areas do minimum disturbance and put up with slow growth.

Tools:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ripping (tractor or excavator).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mound ploughing (large tractor).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hand digging (mattock, pick, spade...).

PROTECTION

Most domestic, native and feral herbivores will relish your young plants.

- All livestock need to be fenced out! (more or less permanently).
- Native and feral herbivores can be fenced out or the seedlings protected with guards.

Which guard? depends on the kind, variety and numbers of animals present on site.

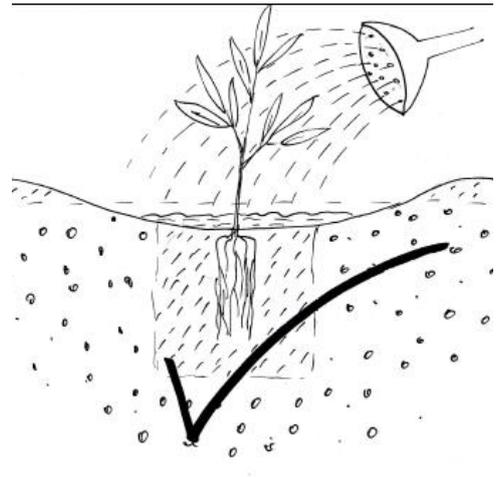
For some tree guard options see: <http://habitatplants.com.au/pages/other-products.php>

- Install firmly to withstand severe winds.
- Remove when seedling is out of browsing reach – re-use / recycle tree guards!

PLANTING

What you need:

- A healthy plant, of the right species and provenance.
- Pre watered (wetting agent).
- No competition / good weed control.
- A good planting hole / good tilth.
- Right timing (planting season is autumn to early spring when the soil is moist for larger projects, extending outside that period where time and water for follow-up watering is plentiful for smaller projects).



- Tools:
- ‘Mattock’ for planting into uncultivated soil.
 - ‘Planting Spade’ ‘Hamilton Planter’ or ‘Potti putki’ for loose / cultivated soil.

FERTILISING

- Generally, fertilising is only necessary if planting into impoverished soil.
- Use ‘controlled release’ complete or pelletised organic (low phosphorus for sensitive plants).
- Too much nitrogen can lead to soft / unstable plants.
- Extra growth needs extra water.
- Incorrect fertiliser use can lead to nutrient imbalance, water pollution and a waste of money.

MAINTENANCE

- Inspect planting regularly.
- Weed control – remove any competition for the first 2 years.
- Livestock – keep out!
- Maintain tree guards until trees are of sufficient size, then remove, re-use, recycle.
- Insect pests – identify and act swiftly.
- Replace losses the following planting season to maintain integrity of shelter design.
- Water if required – but encourage roots to go deep in the search for water.

Timetable

Task	Time	May – Sept. 2017	Oct 2017	Nov	Dec	Jan 2018	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug 2018	Sept 2018 - ongoing
Planning	Objectives? Site issues? Species selection?	Order seedlings												
Weed control		WEED CONTROL - remove existing vegetation before seed set					Repeat WEED CONTROL – control regrowth to eliminate competition for your seedlings before planting							
Cultivation				Ploughing/ripping while soil is dry Create a good tilth										
Protection		Assess browsing pressure Fencing to exclude livestock												
Planting									Plant in autumn to early spring (or plant in early autumn and water-in)					
Maintenance									Visit regularly: carry out weed control, pest control, keep out livestock, maintain tree guards, replace losses					

What not to do:

1. Poor planning / timing – failing to plan the project properly and to complete tasks on time is almost certain to lead to poor outcomes or outright failure.
2. **Lack of sufficient weed control is the most common reason for poor outcomes in planting projects.**
3. Another is insufficient control of wildlife and livestock.
4. Delaying cultivation or doing it in wet soil. This creates lumpy soil / poor tilth, air pockets, additional weed problems and a difficult site for planting.

If uncertain ask for advice. Do it once, do it right, enjoy your success! Happy Planting!