

Revegetation Site Planning

Limestone Coast Landscape Board

Purpose

The purpose of the revegetation determines the site planning required, and what needs to be done. Revegetation for shelterbelts, shade trees and conservation have different approaches and complexities. The size, shape and location of revegetation will also impact planning. Will you use tubestock or direct seeding or both?

Planning

Revegetation may look simple, but there are key steps to follow. Poor planning usually means failed or poor revegetation; i.e. something was forgotten, usually at a critical time.

Begin planning **12 months** before putting things in the ground.



Choose the area - is it fit for purpose?

- If it is a shelterbelt, will it shelter when you need it? Do you need summer or winter wind protection? Consider prevailing wind direction.
- Do not plant near powerlines or underground services (Dial 1100 before you dig).

Engage a revegetation contractor early

- June to September the year before planting - their extensive experience is invaluable.

Determine planting design and types of plants

This will drive all your site preparation and planting/seeding needs.

- Your revegetation contractor's extensive knowledge will be specific to your location, e.g. plants for your soil type, weed control, timing of actions.

Start weed control

Grasses like Phalaris and Tall wheat grass need spraying 12 months before revegetation is planted. Left unchecked they will outcompete your seedlings.

- Use a broadspectrum knockdown herbicide
- Be prepared to control summer weeds (especially after summer rain)
- Do not boom spray sandy soil, it will blow in summer – do strips instead
- Check with your revegetation contractor for alternative herbicides.

Order the plants / seed by September the year before planting

- A lot goes in to producing a quality seedling; collecting seed, buying fresh potting mix, arranging nursery space, watering, quality control as well as time required for them to germinate and grow big enough to plant.

Order tree guards, see factsheet Revegetation Planting.

Does the ground need ripping?

(surface limestone, heavy compaction or impervious clay layer) If so, this must occur at least six months before planting/seeding to ensure soil has settled. Check with your revegetation contractor.

Winter weed control

Spray annual winter weeds one month before planting/seeding.

Organise your planting team.

It is easy to underestimate the amount of time required:

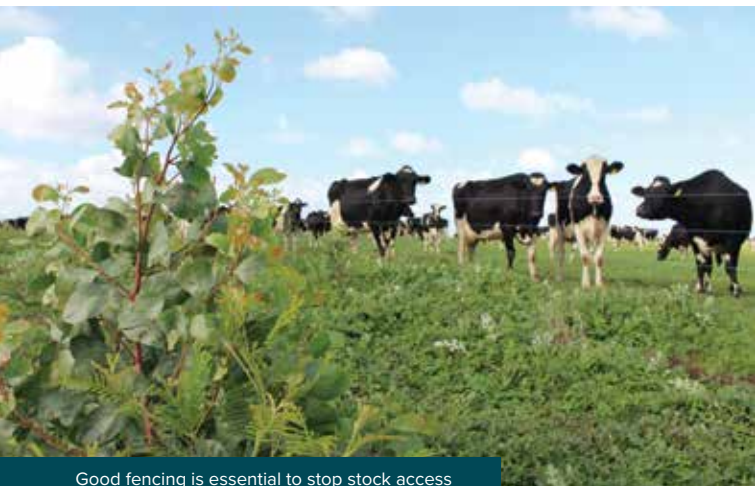
- 5 minutes/plant/person = 12 plants/hour = 96 plants/person/day in soft soil

Plant selection

Local native plants are best. They are adapted to your local soils and conditions, best able to survive seasonal variations and are generally more resistant to pests and diseases. Ensure you select plants that will thrive on similar soils to your revegetation area.

Select a range of trees, shrubs (large and small) and tough ground covers that will do the job.

Planning Revegetation on Farms in the South East lists common South East species, their growth habits and preferred soil types on pages 9-14.



Good fencing is essential to stop stock access



At the time of planting, spacing may seem too far apart but once established is very effective

Fencing

Stock proof fencing is a must. It is extremely disappointing to have stock demolish all your planning and hard work in one day. Make sure gates and vehicle access are included in fence design, it makes maintenance much easier. It is also easier to get the one errant beast that inevitably jumps over the fence!

Don't plant trees close to fences! Leave at least three metres from the fence line and only low shrubs in the first few metres. Trees should be at least five metres or more from fences. It is annoying removing fallen tree branches from fences.

How many plants do you need?

Table 1. A guide to plant numbers based on good planning, preparation and maintenance. Plant numbers will vary according to each site. Seek advice from revegetation contractor or Bush Management Advisor.

Plant type (Tubestock)	For shelter Belt Planting based on 15m width, 4 rows, 3m apart	Large Block Habitat Planting Vary planting density	
		Big Gum Woodland	Stringybark Woodland
	Plants per row per 100m	Plants per hectare	
Large tree Middle 2 rows	10 – 16 (6 to 10m apart) Middle two rows	25 – 36 (15 to 20m apart)	36 - 100 (10 – 15m apart)
Small tree/large shrub > 2m Leeward row	20 - 50 (3 to 5m apart)	70 - 300	100 - 450
		Variation in plants' size changes numbers. Seek advice.	
Shrub < 2m Windward row	50 - 30 (2 to 3m apart)	400 - 1500	550 - 2500
		Variation in plants' size changes numbers. Seek advice.	

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