

# Revegetation Maintenance - Weeds and Pests

Limestone Coast Landscape Board

## Ensuring success, protecting your efforts

A lot of time and effort has gone into getting your plants established. Make sure you get the best success possible by implementing a maintenance program to combat weeds and pests. Your revegetation is now at risk of being overwhelmed by weeds or consumed by pests. **Being prepared** for all problems, coupled with vigilant, regular checks and control measures will ensure the best success for your revegetation – just like any other crop you grow!

## Weeds

Weeds rob your seedlings of valuable soil moisture. Critically, weeds consume moisture that would have infiltrated deep into the soil profile - this is the moisture that gets your seedlings through summer.

Good pre-planting preparation has created conditions for your seedlings to thrive - unfortunately, weeds will thrive too!

Many winter weeds start off as small and insignificant rosettes, but soon turn into the largest capeweed, salvation jane or thistles you've ever seen. Treat them early, before you see flower stalks. More aggressive herbicides will be required if they are let to go this far.

Check for weeds, including pasture grasses, each three to four weeks and control as required.

Weed control around tubestock will be much easier if robust tree guards have been used and installed correctly.



Don't forget to check inside the guards periodically and weed them.

Direct seeding will require the use of shielded spray units to prevent off target damage.

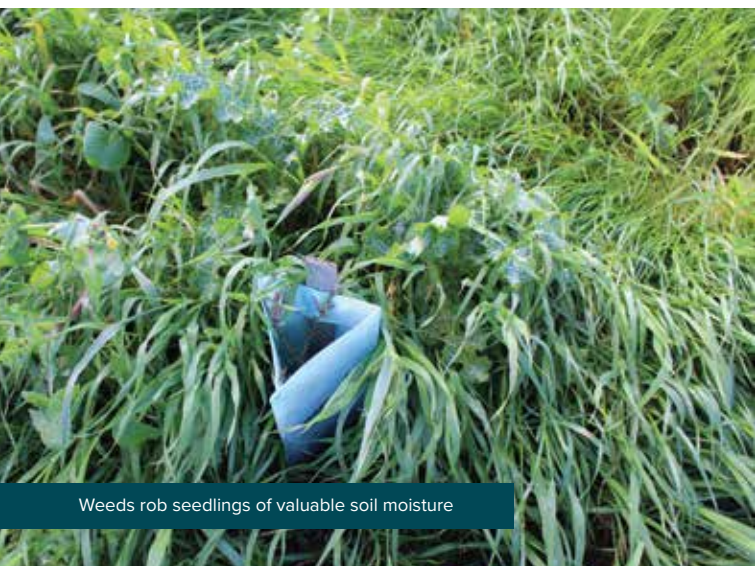
Periodically check inside tree guards for weeds - typically capeweed and annual grasses. These can be carefully removed by hand using a sharp knife to ensure your native seedling is not damaged in the process. It's disheartening to pull out a weed, only to find your little seedling has come out too! It can be time consuming, so only do a few each time. Look for guards with weeds popping out the top. Pull the guard off to make the job easier, and then replace.

## Summer weeds

Don't forget summer weeds. Check after summer rain or heavy dew. Control as soon as they appear, as Caltrop will seed within one month of germination!

## Herbicide

Broad spectrum knockdown herbicides will control most weeds. Residual, grass specific or broadleaf herbicides can be used, but be very cautious because they could kill your seedlings too. Some target specific herbicides can damage or retard plants they are not meant to. Seek advice from revegetation contractor or Landscape Officer.



Weeds rob seedlings of valuable soil moisture



A grazed seedling struggles to grow

## Pest Animals

Tubestock and tiny seedlings are extremely inviting to all grazing pest animals. Red-legged earth mite (RLEM) is usually the first problem followed closely after by snails. Both will destroy direct seeding before you've even noticed the plants germinate. Be vigilant!

### RLEM

Check for RLEM damage, usually seen on clovers and medics first. Silvery patches on leaves is usually the first sign. Spraying a miticide will control the problem. Regular checks are needed until summer and direct seeding should be checked weekly in the first few months after germination. Seek professional advice from your revegetation contractor or agronomist.

### Snails

Check regularly for snails and if found bait straightaway. Iron EDTA Complex based snail bait is preferred because it won't harm birds and lizards. Keep checking regularly through winter to summer and repeat bait as required.

### Grasshoppers

Little can be done to control large numbers of grasshoppers. Some years they just keep coming. A baiting program is possible, but seek professional advice from Authorised Officers or revegetation contractors.

### Vertebrate pests

Vertebrate pests can quickly destroy your seedlings. Maintain your regular control strategies for rabbits, hares, deer and even mice. Controlling kangaroos, corellas and any other native animals require a destruction permit from National Parks & Wildlife Services. Seed advice from your Landscape Officer.

Sturdy tree guards will provide protection until the plants grow above the guard. Large wire guards provide more protection, but can be expensive when many are required.

**Ensure stock do not get into your revegetation.**



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### More information

Limestone Coast Landscape Board

#### Mount Gambier Office

11 Helen Street  
Mount Gambier SA 5290  
Phone: 08 8735 1177

#### Keith Office

61 Anzac Terrace  
Keith SA 5267  
Phone: 08 8755 1620