



BUCKS FOR BUSH

Revegetation Site Planning

Additional information on revegetation site planning can be found in the Natural Resources South East book "Planning Revegetation on Farms in the South East" by Stokes 2010 pages 6-8 and 53-54.

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 No. 4 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

Professional planting teams are available see pages 105 – 107 of "Planning Revegetation on Farms in the South East".

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.



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



Good fencing is essential to stop stock access

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 |
| Shrub < 2m Windward row | 50 - 30 (2 to 3m apart) | 400 - 1500 | 550 - 2500 |
| | | Variation in plants' size changes numbers. Seek advice. | |

