



Fact Sheet: Managing Native Vegetation for Multiple Benefits

What is revegetation?

Revegetation is the re-establishment of native vegetation in an area of land to create habitat, connect existing vegetation and promote biodiversity and healthy ecosystems. Other benefits include the suppression of weeds and the prevention of soil erosion by stabilising soils. Plant roots bind the soil, preventing loss due to wind and fast flowing water.

The most appropriate vegetation to plant in any given area depends on soil type, rainfall, amount of ground cover and whether there is any soil erosion. The Rivers of Carbon Native Revegetation Species List (found at www.riversofcarbon.com.au) offers excellent advice on the species that are suitable for revegetation, including species specific for riparian, dry or cold/wet landscapes.

Why is it important?

Native vegetation is crucial for a healthy and biodiverse landscape, especially in riparian areas. When the land has been cleared or highly degraded, revegetation efforts may be necessary to rebuild habitats. This may include tube stock planting, direct seeding, or additional methods such as seeding by hand, moving leaf litter, logs or top soil and transplanting existing seedlings.

Native plants help to control erosion through stabilising soils and riverbanks, improving water quality, sequestering carbon and providing habitat for a wealth of unique wildlife, including threatened species. Thoughtful native revegetation efforts will help keep your favourite species returning to your property.

This guide is designed to help landholders identify appropriate revegetation species and techniques along waterways.

Contact us

The Molonglo Conservation Group is a not-for-profit coordinator of Landcare and Park Care groups in the Molonglo and Queanbeyan River Catchments. Contact the Molonglo Conservation Group Program Manager for more information.

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How do you revegetate?

1. Review your site

Walk through the site and note any native vegetation (trees, shrubs or grasses) that you want to protect and enhance. Remnant vegetation patches should be linked to improve shelter and wildlife habitat connectivity. Think about what you want the site to look and feel like - what combination of trees, shrubs and grasses is going to work?

2. Plan revegetation locations

Now it is time to choose whether to plant individual tube stock or undertake direct seeding. Machine direct seeding is more efficient and cost effective than tube stock but requires the site to be very well sprayed to reduce ground cover competition, not too wet and not heavily impacted by herbivores such as rabbits. Tube stock planting also requires site preparation but is not as critical as for direct seeding - this can take the form of hand dug holes, rip-lines or spot cultivation over-sprayed with Glyphosate. Find more advice on site preparation at www.greeningaustralia.org.au Recommended spacing for trees is 5m, shrubs 3m and grasses 1m. These should be planted in a mix to diversify habitat and create a good level of shelter.

3. Plant! plant! plant!

Direct seeding is provided as a service by Greening Australia in the Canberra region, as a fee for service costing approximately \$300 / km. They use a machine towed behind a ute to deliver seed directly into the ground. They can advise on specific details if this is preferred (including whether your site is suitable).

If you are planting tubestock, this can be undertaken from Autumn to spring, ideally ahead of rain. Before planting, sit the tubestock in a bucket of water and leave until no more bubbles pop to the surface. This ensures the entire tube is watered before planting, reducing stress on the plant during transfer. Dig a basketball sized hole. Tap the plant out from the tube and place in the hole, firmly compacting soil around it to ensure the roots contact soil and all air bubbles are removed. Plant below ground level to ensure the creation of a dish to capture rainfall. It's now time to water and install plant guards to protect against grazing animals.



Image: Jerrabomberra Creek revegetation at Jerrabomberra

4. Maintenance

Until the canopy is able to suppress the weeds itself, additional hand weeding or herbicide spraying may be required to ensure invasive weeds are not competing with the same nutrients and space. If good initial site preparation is carried out, the need for this should be reduced. Guards should be removed once plants are at least 20cm higher than the top of the guards. If plants are watered-in properly and site preparation has been undertaken well, there should be no need to continue to water plants except during times of extended drought.

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Important things to consider

Appropriate species selection is critical for plant survival and the ecological value of the project. Native species that already grow on the property should be used, or plants from similar provenances (i.e. are found in the local area).

Choose a variety of fast-growing hardy species that are known to survive the conditions where you are intending to plant - check if it is particularly cold or wet and seek advice from groups such as the Molonglo Conservation Group, Landcare groups or Greening Australia before revegetating your property. They often have native plant nurseries which will ensure the most appropriate species.

Generally, higher diversity in your plant mix will result in healthier ecosystems and a higher chance of survival. Plantings should include trees, shrubs, and grasses to provide a range of food and structure for wildlife and shelter for stock.



Helpful resources

- Molonglo Conservation Group (www.molonglo.org.au)
- Bushland Conservation Management [Revegetation guide](#)
- Rivers of Carbon [Native Revegetation Species List](#)
- NSW Government Department of Environment & Heritage [Revegetation Guide](#)