

# EcoTender Demonstration 2007/08

Information Sheet No. 11

## Introduction

Landholders proposing to plant within their native vegetation site or revegetate a formerly cleared site will be required to establish suitable locally indigenous species at a specified density in order for these actions to qualify towards their environmental benefit score.

Thorough planning is required for any vegetation planting project, involving site and species selection, design of ecologically sympathetic plantings, obtaining good quality planting stock, and good site preparation, including fencing, weed and vermin control.

The planting list developed by the EcoTender Field Officer identifies suitable plant species and their required planting densities for supplementary planting and revegetation proposals according to the type of vegetation that occupies (or occupied) the site. The recommended range of species and densities has been chosen on the basis of established Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) benchmarks for good quality examples of similar vegetation in the region, local environmental conditions, ease of propagation and likely availability from local nurseries. Further information on native vegetation and revegetation standards can be obtained from DSE website [www.dse.vic.gov.au](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au) search for 'revegetation planting standard'.

## Establishment Options

Landholders committing to revegetation and/or supplementary planting on their site will be required to meet minimum site protection, site preparation and plant stock standards, as well as agree to establish plants according to a defined planting design and schedule. Follow-up weed and pest control will also be required on most sites. These guidelines identify the range of plant establishment options available. The EcoTender Field Officer can advise you of the most suitable approach for any given site.

## Species selection and plant numbers

The species and plant numbers prescribed by the EcoTender Field Officer are based on the minimum requirements to achieve the target plant numbers and densities for each life form (tree, shrub, etc.) after five years. This calculation takes into account natural variation within the vegetation type, the current site quality and the local environment. It should be noted that any planted species lost by attrition during the EcoTender management agreement period will need to be replaced to ensure that target numbers are achieved.

The total number of plants required is based on the total area identified for planting – which for supplementary planting within remnants may be confined to more open areas beyond the drip line of any tree canopy. The EcoTender Field Officer will calculate the available area for planting.

## Seed collection/sourcing plant stock

Seed or plant cutting material should be collected from within or as close to the site as possible unless otherwise advised by the EcoTender Field Officer. Landholders may collect seed from their own property. Where seed or plant material is being sourced on other private land, the landholder's permission is required. A permit from DSE is required to collect seed from public land.

Landholders may choose to collect seed and on-grow their own plants, use stock provided through the local Landcare group and/or contract a nursery to undertake this work. It is very important to plan this in advance of the proposed planting season. For example, nurseries may require 12 months advance notice in order to have plants ready for the proposed planting period. Plants can also be purchased directly from the nursery's stock as long as there is evidence that the plants are from a locally indigenous source. In all cases, land managers will be required to keep accurate records of the planting stock for reporting purposes.

## Standards for management – Revegetation and supplementary planting

This will include the collection location and some accompanying information on the vegetation type (if known), position in landscape (creek, valley, hilltop etc.), soils, rainfall and aspect.

### Site protection

If the adjoining area to the planting site is being grazed, then the site will need to be fenced prior to planting to exclude stock.

Refer to the EcoTender Information Sheet 10 *Standards for Management – Fencing* for information on minimum requirements and fencing options. In some cases, rabbit exclusion netting or guards for tubestock may also be required and the EcoTender Field Officer will advise on this based on existing threats to the site.

### Planting design

In general, landholders should plant in clumps in the existing gaps in vegetation to create a mosaic effect. Planting in clumps will generally result in better survival rates than planting isolated individuals. The EcoTender Field Officer will identify potential planting areas on the site. It may be necessary to plant more densely with shrubs in weedy areas to gain a competitive advantage.

Revegetation that links remnant patches will need to be a minimum of 20m wide to qualify as an environmental benefit. This width may incorporate any existing corridors of native vegetation such as road reserves and creeklines.

### Planting Principles

- treat weeds in planting patches at least twice prior to planting tubestock;
- take care to minimise disturbance to any native ground covers and grasses;
- control weeds and pest herbivores post-planting as required.

### Post planting management

Post-planting management of all sites will be required. As a minimum, landholders will be required to selectively control weeds in spring and autumn.

Rabbits and hares will also need to be controlled through fumigation/hand collapsing of burrows and/or shooting (Refer to EcoTender Info Sheet 8 - *Standards for Management – Rabbits*).

Plants lost during the EcoTender management agreement period will need to be replaced periodically to ensure that target plant numbers and densities are achieved.

### Hand digging/hand planting tubestock

- minimum size planting patches of 4m x 4m for shrubs and grasses, unless advised otherwise by the EcoTender Field Officer;
- Trees can be planted in patches or individually;
- plant tubestock in holes dug to a suitable depth;
- guard tubestock against animal grazing where required.

### Machine-ripping/hand planting tubestock

- select rip lines at least 2m away from any tree drip lines (tree canopy) and concentrate ripping in larger gaps and weedy areas;
- prepare planting area by ripping the site using a parallel rip lines approximately 60cm apart, being careful to only rip in areas proposed for tubestock planting;
- plant tubestock in upper lines to a suitable depth (see schedule);
- guard tubestock against animal grazing where required.

### Direct seeding

- select direct seeding areas away from any tree drip lines (tree canopy) and concentrate in larger gaps using a figure of eight, wavy line or zig-zag pattern (try to avoid straight lines) in weedy areas;
- treat weeds at least twice before sowing using a suitable herbicide sprayed in 1.5 m wide strips or selectively spot-spray weeds in areas with good native ground cover.

### Health and Safety

It is the responsibility of the landholder to ensure that all revegetation works are conducted according to safe minimum standards and in accordance with relevant legal obligations.

### Further information

For further information on EcoTender please visit DSE website [www.dse.vic.gov.au](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au) or CMA website [www.ccma.vic.gov.au](http://www.ccma.vic.gov.au) and search under "EcoTender".

## Standards for management – Revegetation and supplementary planting

Schedule of Actions*	Year 1	Year 2	Remaining period of Management Agreement
Fence site (if required)	autumn/winter		
Pre-planting weed control (planting patches)	spring	autumn	
Collect seed	spring/summer		as necessary if required for additional plantings
Prepare planting areas (machine/hand -ripping)	spring/summer		
On-grow plants	summer - on-going		As necessary if required for additional plantings
Rabbit/hare control	autumn	autumn	ongoing
Plant out sites (guard plants) or direct seed sites		after autumn break winter/spring	as necessary if required for additional plantings
Selective weed control post planting		autumn/spring	ongoing

\* Note that this is a guide only. Landholders who sign EcoTender revegetation agreements will need to demonstrate progress towards plant survival targets in order to qualify for milestone payments. The survival milestones may be achieved through alternative approaches to the Schedule of Actions above.



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