

Restoration & Revegetation Guide North-east catchment, Victoria

Part 1. Introduction and Method

Introduction

This guide provides practical information about native vegetation in the North East catchment of Victoria. The purpose of the guide is primarily to assist with the selection of locally native trees, shrubs and ground cover plants that may suit particular parts of the landscape, for a given area or 'zone'.

This can be used for selecting plants for revegetation or enhancement of existing remnant vegetation. e.g. If you have a bare paddock, you can choose the range of plants to create the varied structure of the vegetation. If you have existing trees or you can just select the shrubs or ground layer plants.

There is a lot of information available to assist you with how to plan for property use and native vegetation management. The practical 'how-to' prepare, plant and maintain information is also available from many different sources. Please see the links on the front page of the Native Plant List brochures, or 'Other links' below.

Background

The original Revegetation Guide for North-eastern Victoria (Stelling 1994), which has served us well, is out of print. Landholders, Landcare members and Coordinators, Government officers and plant Nursery Owners were seeking more detailed information and greatly supported the development of a new guide.

DSE resources and Natural Heritage Trust funding, (through the North East CMA Regional Catchment Investment Plan), has assisted the update and development of Part 1 of the new guide.

About the guide

The Restoration / Revegetation guide for the North East Catchment Area will ultimately be composed of several parts.

Part 1 is completed and includes:

- Introduction including background and methodology (this brochure).
- Native Plant Species Lists Brochures for each of the zones, depicting land-system profiles and indigenous (local) species for the majority of the Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs), that occur on private land.

Part 1 cont'd.

- "How to choose a plant list" Brochure including a field worksheet.

Part 2 - to be completed.

- Table of Native Plant Species characteristics
- Plant Species descriptions for each of those listed in the leaflets (see NSW Riverina guide, or Revegetation Guide for the GB catchment book).

Part 3 - to be completed

Practical Information Notes on topics which are not currently covered by other sources.

Zone Brochures:

Brochures are available on the DSE website: click on the relevant Zone on the map to take you to a Native Plant List Brochure for that area. Limited hard copies are available from DSE or Shire Offices.

Each brochure contains:

- Background information on planning a restoration or revegetation project,
- Landscape profiles illustrated by graphics and descriptions of the land-form, geology, soils.
- Native Plant lists for each predominant EVC that is found on private land,
- A map to give an indication of which EVCs occur where in that area.

The following is not included in Part 1 of the guide:

- Lists for EVCs which predominantly occur on public land (as most is native vegetation and some areas are plantation).
- Lists for Alpine or Sub-alpine EVCs. More detailed knowledge, prescriptions or guides exist for this area, e.g. The Australian Alps Rehabilitation Manual:

<http://www.australionalps.deh.gov.au/publications/rehabilitation.html>

How the Plant Species Lists were developed

The species lists are a short list of what might occur in that EVC. Some EVCs have over 100 native plant species occurring in intact sites, others are naturally low in diversity. But not all of these are suitable for restoration: some are too small for most people to consider finding and using; many are uncommon and others are only found for short periods of the year. There is still much to be learnt in how to grow or establish some of the genera and species.

Step 1. Extract base information

The species lists for each EVC in the brochures are derived from the following sources:

- Species lists from quadrat (site based) data, defined area lists and 10' grid data (broad area lists from the National Herbarium and various collectors), extracted from the Flora Information System (FIS) database (2005);
- Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) descriptions of the North East area (plus field notes from the EVC mapping projects); and
- Additional species lists from community groups or individuals from the region, and personal communications with local plant enthusiasts.

Step 2. Short-list species

The more common species were selected, by using the cover-abundance values in quadrats and from field work noting what occurs in remnant vegetation in the rural area. The lists reflect a range of:

1. *life-forms* ie. the structure, form and shape/habit of the plant, which provide different habitats.
2. *genera* – which have different types of flowers, fruits and seeds, ie. different food types.

This selection has been cross referenced with the relevant EVC Benchmark to ensure that the 'lifeform' and species diversity are represented.

Step 3. Annotate species lists

Within the lists some of the plants are highlighted in **bold**. The selection of these was based on meeting at least one of the following criteria:

- Common: native species which occur frequently in quadrats or species lists for that floristic grouping.
- Dominant: Native species which have a high 'cover abundance' recorded in quadrat data (Braun Blanquet 2,3 or above);
- Pioneer: native species which are known to respond to disturbance and quickly colonise a site.

The inference is that these are essential to initiating a restoration process and creating the overall structure. Often the species highlighted are nitrogen-fixing (*Acacia* spp, *Fabaceae* spp.), and others whilst they may be short-lived as adults (e.g. *Cassinia* spp) will soon start to regenerate from their own seed. Nursery availability has also been highlighted in the lists, by underlining the species name. The source of this information was from all the nurseries which grow indigenous plants in the north east region of Victoria.

Step 4. Obtain feedback

Draft lists were circulated to a range of relevant, knowledgeable people who live and/ or work in each zone. Constructive comments and additional species were used in compiling final drafts of the plant lists.

N.B. We have kept an 'intermediate' length list of native plants for each of the EVCs in the brochures. This includes species likely to be suited for enhancement, restoration or revegetation, however it excludes many of the small herbaceous species such as orchids.

If you need more detail from these longer lists, please contact a member of the Biodiversity team at DSE Wodonga or Wangaratta.

References

- DNRE (2002) Managing your patch of Bush Kit. Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Wodonga.
Stelling, F. (1994) Revegetation Guide for North-eastern Victoria. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, North East Area.

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Australian Government

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