

BushTender

Introduction

Supplementary planting of indigenous (local native) species (generally limited to woody vegetation types) in remnant native vegetation is designed to help restore the structure and species diversity of the vegetation type. Under BushTender the following minimum standards apply for supplementary planting. The BushTender Field Officer will discuss the various supplementary planting options with you. Supplementary planting conducted under BushTender will need to be maintained for a minimum of 10 years from the date of signing the Agreement.

Successful supplementary planting requires good quality planting stock, good site preparation and follow up management, including fencing, ground preparation and pest plant and animal control.

Management Agreements which include supplementary planting will contain management actions relating to the planting process and a supplementary planting list listing recommended species and survival targets.

Tubestock or Direct Seeding

There are two options for supplementary planting: tubestock planting or direct seeding.

Tubestock planting is more effective for small areas and planting within remnant native vegetation as it causes less native vegetation and soil disturbance and it is easier to achieve desired species densities.

Direct seeding can be cheaper and less labour intensive for larger areas. However, success is more dependent on environmental conditions, species selection may be limited and it may not be possible to prevent disturbance to existing native species.

Species selection and plant numbers

The BushTender Field Officer will recommend a range of suitable indigenous plant species and survival targets. These will be chosen on the basis of: the diversity and structure of the same

vegetation type, local environmental conditions, ease of propagation, species that grow locally, likely availability from local nurseries, and the area available for planting. In discussion with the BushTender Project Officer you may add other indigenous species if they are suitable for the site and vegetation type.

The supplementary planting list will specify a range of species for each life form (trees, shrubs, etc.) required for your site. You should aim to establish the greatest diversity of species possible. However, at a minimum, for each life form listed, choose at least two species if multiple species are listed.

Minimum target plant numbers that are expected to be alive after ten years will be specified for each life form. Overstorey species will be allocated a survival target range that can include natural regeneration. However, if supplementary planting has been recommended, it is unlikely that natural recruitment will not occur.

You may choose to plant over the survival targets to allow for the death of some plants. Alternatively you may plant several times over the length of the agreement, replacing dead plants where necessary, to reach the survival target.

Seed collection and sourcing plant stock

You may choose to collect seed and grow your own plants or contract a nursery to do the work. Plants and seed may also be obtained from nurseries and seedbanks as long as there is evidence that the plants are from a local indigenous source.

- Source seeds and plants well in advance (up to a year) depending on the species and quantities required.
- Source seed or plant cutting material as locally as possible and from the same soil and vegetation type (permissions or permits may be required).

Standards for management – Supplementary planting

- Keep accurate records of the planting stock for reporting purposes. This will include location and, if known, some information on the vegetation type, position in landscape (creek, valley, hilltop etc.), soils, rainfall and aspect.

Protection of planted vegetation

- Fence the site to exclude stock prior to planting if the area adjoining the planting site is being grazed.
- Guards or rabbit proof fencing may be required to protect plants from grazing by rabbits, hares and other animals. Milk carton guards also provide a microhabitat for young plants and may increase the chance of survival.

Refer to the BushTender Information Sheet No. 9 - *Standards for Management – Fencing* for information on minimum requirements and fencing options.

Planting design

The BushTender Field Officer will assist in identifying the area (in hectares) available for supplementary planting and the locations within the site where planting should take place. The area available for planting is generally determined by the areas outside the drip line of the tree canopy, which have low or no coverage of native species.

- Plant outside the tree canopy drip line.
- Avoid disturbing any native vegetation, including native ground covers and grasses.

- Plant in gaps created through weed removal or gaps in the remnant native vegetation.
- Plant in clumps of at least 4m x 4m for shrubs and grasses, unless advised otherwise by the BushTender Field Officer. Planting in clumps will generally result in better survival rates than planting isolated individuals.
- Avoid planting or direct seeding in straight lines.
- It may be necessary to plant more densely with shrubs in weedy areas to gain a competitive advantage.

Site preparation

- Treat weeds in the planting areas at least twice prior to planting or direct seeding. Refer to BushTender Information Sheet No. 8 - *Standards for Management – Weeds*.
- Control pest animals (e.g. rabbits and hares). Refer to BushTender Information Sheet No. 7 - *Standards for Management – Rabbits*.
- Soil disturbance should be kept to a minimum and must not occur within an area twice the diameter of the canopy of existing trees on the site. Ripping is not an acceptable method of soil preparation for supplementary planting under BushTender.
- Plant tubestock in holes dug to a suitable depth and width to allow root penetration of the soil.

Schedule of Actions	Year 1	Year 2	Remaining period of Management Agreement
Collect or source seed, or source tubestock	as soon as possible		as necessary if required for additional plantings
Fence site (if required)	within 3 months of signing agreement		
On-grow plants (if required)	autumn – on-going		as necessary if required for additional plantings
Weed control	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing
Rabbit/hare/grazing control	ongoing	ongoing	ongoing as required
Plant out sites (guard plants) or direct seed		after autumn break or as suitable for environmental conditions	supplementary plant into site as required

Potential schedule of actions. Timings will vary dependent on local conditions and weeds present.

Post planting and seeding management

To ensure success, management after planting is required.

- Selectively control weeds around the new plants.
- Control pest animals for example rabbits and hares.
- Under some conditions plantings may need to be watered.
- Over the Management Agreement period more plants may need to be planted or some plants thinned to meet the survival targets.

Health and safety

You are responsible for ensuring all works required in implementing the management actions are conducted in a safe manner and comply with the lawful requirements of any Authority, and with all Acts, regulations and other laws which may be applicable to the Management Plan.

To determine whether there are any underground pipes or cables on your property, you may wish to consider calling 1100 - "Dial before you dig". This is a free referral service from anywhere in Australia.

Further information

There is a wide variety of sources of information for revegetation techniques available. The following list provides some useful sources:

- Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) website www.dse.vic.gov.au
- Information Notes on the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) website www.dpi.vic.gov.au
- FloraBank www.florabank.org.au
- Your local Landcare Coordinator, Catchment Management Authority, Local Council or DPI Office.

For further information on BushTender, please contact the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) Customer Service Centre on **136 186** or visit the DSE website at: <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/bushtender>. All BushTender Information Sheets are available on the website.

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Published by the Victorian Government Department of Sustainability and Environment, Melbourne, March 2009
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Authorised by the Victorian Government, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne

Printed by Stream Solutions

ISBN 978-1-74208-941-6 (set - print)
ISBN 978-1-74208-942-3 (set - online)

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