

Upper Wimmera Revegetation Calendar

**PROJECT
PLATYPUS**
UPPER WIMMERA LANDCARE



1) Plan your project, this should be 1 – 2 years in advance.

- Ideally a whole farm plan or subcatchment plan should be developed indicating revegetation zones and priorities.
- Choose areas with the best potential for revegetation such as areas which enhance existing remnant vegetation corridors or link patches of remnant vegetation.

2) Apply for funding assistance if needed, well before you plan to commence works.

- Organisations such as Project Platypus, the Department of Primary Industries and the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority have programs which can subsidise the cost of trees, guards and fencing materials.
- Advice on projects is essential when planning to ensure it will satisfy funding criteria.

3) Order your plants! Do this early or you will miss out! It is important that orders are with nurseries by October/November the year before you plan to plant.

- Select species which grow in similar conditions in your local area. Where appropriate a variety of grasses, shrubs and trees should be ordered to effectively 're-create' the ecosystem that was once there.
- Collect your own local seed or ensure the nursery is using local provenance seed. In most cases if Project Platypus is funding your project, Project Platypus will look after both seed and plant provision for you.

4) Weed Control: this is one of the most important steps! Areas to be revegetated should be sprayed early, this lessens plant competition especially with dominant pasture species, thus there is a greater chance of plant survival.

- A spray the previous Autumn is recommended to enable moisture to be stored from autumn and winter rains. A second spray a few weeks prior to planting is also needed to kill any newly germinated weeds. Spot spraying up to one metre in diameter is also effective.
- Consider using a residual spray to prevent longer term weed germination.
- Scalping a 50cm by 50cm spot can also suffice particularly where there are valuable remnant species that should be preserved.
- Noxious weeds within the area should also be sprayed to ensure such species are controlled and do not spread once grazing pressure is removed.
- This is NOT a one off activity, weed control should be ONGOING to ensure success.

5. Rip the areas to be planted. This should occur in between March and May.

- In most soils it is advantageous to rip a planting line to allow plants to penetrate to the subsoil and establish more quickly. Clay soils should be ripped when dry or just moist to avoid clodding. Saline or waterlogged soils may require mounding and ripping.
- The main aim of ripping is to allow autumn/winter rains to penetrate the surface, building up storage below. It is therefore important that this is done within the designated time frame.
- Ripping also allows much quicker and easier planting.
- When ripping try to avoid straight parallel lines, how about wiggling the lines to create a much more natural planting template.

6. Rabbit Control: Anytime prior to fencing.

- It is essential that rabbit burrows near the planting site are ripped or in the very least fumigated, this will lessen plant predation and lead to a much higher plant survival rate.
- A rabbit proof fence if appropriate is ideal to further protect planting sites. Just be sure you don't trap any rabbits in! Carefully consider this option as a rabbit proof fence can also inhibit the movement of native species.

7. Fence: Any time prior to planting providing the site prep has been completed. Once the site is fenced it makes it much more difficult to access.

- Fencing is essential to keep stock out.
- If there is a possibility of cattle grazing, stronger fences are needed.
- Different funding providers may have varying criteria. If you wish your planting to have a habitat or biodiversity significance, areas should be fenced to at least 20 metres wide.

8. Plant: The best time to plant in the Upper Wimmera is generally in between June and September.

- The ideal time for planting is after the Autumn break when there is still warmth in the soil. Late June/July is often a reliable time in this region. Frosty hollows and wet sites may be better planted in early September to avoid harsh conditions for young seedlings.
- Plant carefully, generally into the base of the rip line gives the best protection.
- Plants should also be guarded to protect them from the wind and grazing animals.
- In some cases Project Platypus can organise assistance if you need it, so don't be afraid to call if you need help!

9. Follow up Maintenance.

- In our region, if good site preparation has taken place, plants generally don't need watering providing they are planted after the Autumn break and before the end of September.
- Lots of animals like to eat the young plants including grasshoppers, sheep, wallabies and rabbits so vigilance is needed. Monitor your plants regularly to identify problems.
- If the plants have been planted where pasture species such as phalaris dominate it is important that follow up and ongoing weed control is applied.
- Take before and after photos so as you can monitor progress, use a common photo point for best results.