



1. Plan your project, 1 – 2 years in advance.

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



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. Project Platypus revegetation projects are finalised by December in the previous year.



3. Order your plants early if you are doing an independent revegetation project. It is important that orders are with nurseries by November/December the year before you 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 seed or ensure the nursery is using local provenance seed.

4. Weed Control is one of the most important steps! Areas to be revegetated should be sprayed early to lessen competition especially by dominant pasture species and to ensure a greater chance of plant survival.

Spraying in Autumn is recommended to enable moisture to be stored from autumn and winter rains. A second spray a few weeks prior to planting may also be needed to kill any newly germinated weeds. Spot spraying up to one metre in diameter is also effective.

Scalping a 50cm by 50cm spot can also suffice as a weed control method 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 may not be a one off activity; weed control should be ongoing to ensure success.





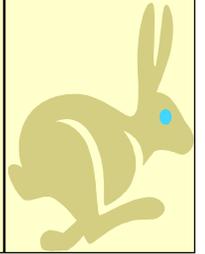
5. Rip the areas to be planted between March and May.

Deep ripping the planting lines for your revegetation project has a number of purposes. It allows rainfall to penetrate what might otherwise be crusted or water resistant soils and ensures that rainfall following planting feeds moisture into the root zone of the growing plants. Ripping along the contour also captures water for growing plants which might otherwise flow off the hill.

Modern planting tools such as the Potti Putki rely on friable soil for the beak of the tool to penetrate the soil and the plant to fall down the shaft into the soft soil. A small amount of “gardening” with ones boot completes the planting process without any bending required. Rip lines at specified spacings also allow planting at set ratios.

6. Rabbit Control - Any time 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 may be appropriate to further protect planting sites. Be sure you don't trap any rabbits in! Carefully consider this option as a rabbit proof fence may 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 rates of subsidies. 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 between June and August

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 late August to avoid harsh conditions for young seedlings. Plant carefully, generally into the base of the rip line to give the best protection. Plants should also be guarded to protect them from the wind and grazing animals. In some cases Project Platypus can provide advice or organise assistance.

9. Follow up Maintenance and Monitoring

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 August. 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.

10. Enjoy the many benefits your revegetation project will provide

Wildlife habitat, aesthetic values, stock shelter, carbon sequestration, shelter for crops, wildlife corridor, recreation

**PROJECT
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UPPER WIMMERA LANDCARE



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