

BushBroker[®]

Standards for management – Revegetation

Information sheet No. 10

Revegetation is the planting of indigenous (local native) species in a site.

Under BushBroker, the following minimum standards apply for revegetation. The BushBroker Project Officer will discuss the various revegetation options with you. Revegetation is generally limited to woody vegetation classes.

In most cases the revegetation of grasslands can not be undertaken through BushBroker.

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

BushBroker Management Plan (Management Plan) (Schedule two of the BushBroker Landowner Agreement) which includes revegetation will contain a revegetation list listing recommended species and survival targets.

Survival Targets

Survival targets are the minimum number of New Recruits (trees, shrubs established under revegetation) which need to be established in a zone within a specified timeframe. It is expected that this number of New Recruits will still be alive after ten years.

Under BushBroker, the Management Plan specifies survival target milestones to be achieved. Landowners are required to report against progress towards these milestones each year.

Tubestock or Direct Seeding

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

Tubestock planting is more effective for small areas when planting around existing native vegetation because 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 vegetation.

You may find that a combination of tubestock and direct seeding is most appropriate.

Species selection and plant numbers

The BushBroker Project 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 to be planted. In discussion with the BushBroker Project Officer you may add other indigenous species if they are suitable for the site and vegetation type.

The revegetation 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.

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 Landowner Agreement, replacing dead plants where necessary, to reach the survival target.

Seed collection and sourcing plant stock

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

Standards for management – Revegetation

- 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).
- 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 New Recruits from grazing by rabbits, hares and other animals. Milk carton guards also provide a microhabitat for young recruits and may increase the chance of survival.

Refer to the BushBroker Information Sheet No. 12 - *Standards for Management – Fencing* for information on minimum requirements and fencing options.

Planting design

- The BushBroker Project Officer will assist in identifying suitable sites for revegetation.
- The greatest biodiversity benefits will be achieved from sites that are larger, wider and better connected to existing native vegetation.
- Plant outside the tree canopy drip line of any existing trees on the site.
- Avoid disturbing any existing native vegetation, including native ground covers and grasses.
- Avoid planting or direct seeding in straight lines.
- Along riparian zones, revegetation must be a minimum width of 10 metres.

Site preparation

- Treat weeds in the planting areas at least twice prior to planting or direct seeding. Refer to BushBroker Information Sheet No. 8 – *Standards for Management – Weeds*.
- Control pest animals (e.g. rabbits and hares). Refer to BushBroker Information Sheet No. 7 - *Standards for Management – Rabbits*.
- Prepare the soil as suitable for the site. Soil preparation may be needed well in advance of planting, particularly on sites with clay or compacted soil.
- Ripping must not occur within an area twice the diameter of the canopy of existing trees on the site.

Schedule of Actions	Year 1	Year 2	Remaining period of Landowner 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 Landowner Agreement		
Propagate 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 thin overstorey species if required to meet targets

This is a potential schedule of actions. Timings will vary dependent on local conditions and weeds present.

Standards for management – Revegetation

Post planting and seeding management

To ensure success, management after planting is required.

- Selectively control weeds around the New Recruits.
- Control pest animals (e.g. rabbits and hares).
- Under some conditions plantings may need to be watered.
- Over the Management Plan period more recruits may need to be planted or some recruits thinned to meet the survival targets.

Revegetation planting standards

Revegetation through BushBroker should be in accordance with Department of Sustainability and Environment's (DSE) *Revegetation Planting Standards* found on the DSE Native Vegetation website at: www.dse.vic.gov.au/nativevegetation.

DSE (2006) *Native Vegetation Revegetation planting standards – Guidelines for establishing native vegetation for net gain accounting*. Victorian Government, Department of Sustainability and Environment, East Melbourne.

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 Landowner Agreement.

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 BushBroker, please contact the DSE Customer Service Centre on **136 186** or visit the DSE website at: www.dse.vic.gov.au/nativevegetation. All BushBroker Information Sheets are available on the website.

BushBroker is a registered trademark of the State of Victoria (Department of Sustainability and Environment)
Published by the Victorian Government Department of Sustainability and Environment, Melbourne, September 2009
© The State of Victoria Department of Sustainability and Environment 2009

This publication is copyright. No part may be reproduced by any process except in accordance with the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968*.

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne
Printed by Stream Solutions

ISBN 978-1-74242-181-0 (print - set)
ISBN 978-1-74242-182-7 (online - set)

For more information contact the DSE Customer Service Centre 136 186

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.