

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE

NATIVE VEGETATION

What is native vegetation management?

Native vegetation is made up of trees, shrubs, grasses and all other plants native to Australia. Native vegetation management includes working with the community to increase and improve native vegetation cover and to better manage existing vegetation.

Why do we need to manage it ?

Native vegetation provides ecological, social and economic benefits. It contributes to biodiversity, protects from land degradation, maintains water quality, acts as a carbon sink, and provides for recreation, natural heritage, and research.

It provides fodder, products such as timber and honey, and habitat for beneficial pest predators. It also has important social, economic and cultural values for Aboriginal people.

What can I do ?

Manage remnant native vegetation to improve its condition. Ensure your revegetation or new plantings are consistent with your whole farm plan. Think about where they will provide the most benefit to your farming system. They might be to provide livestock shade and shelter, protect buildings, prevent groundwater recharge, stabilise stream banks or provide wood production.

How do I do it?

Retain

- Retain patches of native vegetation and try to link with other patches.
- Retain large trees, leaf litter, sticks and logs under remnant vegetation.

Protect

- Fence native vegetation areas to protect from stock
- Avoid fragmenting existing areas of vegetation by roads or fences.
- Keep a buffer between native vegetation remnants and other intensive land uses

Manage

- Manage grazing to allow regrowth of vegetation (ie don't graze in seed setting/flowering, or germination periods)
- Look after existing patches of remnant vegetation to allow natural regeneration
- Use appropriate native species when planting vegetation, particularly in existing vegetation areas
- Retain tree stumps, fallen trees, dead trees and understorey vegetation for habitat for pest predators
- Control weeds
- Minimise disturbance to soil and vegetation to maintain ground cover, keep weeds out and allow the understorey plants to establish.
- Reduce chemical and fertiliser drift from adjacent farm activities.

Who can help ?

Department of Land and Water Conservation, Yass phone (02) 6226 1433
Greening Australia, ACT phone (02) 6253 3035