

NATIVE SEED COLLECTION

Why should you collect native seed?

The cost of seed is a major part of the cost of revegetation projects. Collecting your own seed keeps costs down, and also ensures the best source of seed from local species suited to local conditions.

How do you collect seed?

- ❖ Seeds of native plants are usually found in a pod, woody capsule or cone. The seed is ready to be collected as the seed matures (usually December-January).

For eg wattles and the pea flower family in our region produce pods that open as they mature and can be picked when they are brown and just starting to open.

- ❖ Collect the seeds in calico bags, pillowslips or cardboard boxes.
- ❖ Dry them in a warm dry place on a sheet or newspaper until seed has been shed. This may take anywhere between a few days to several weeks.

Banksia cones and Hakea fruits may need to be put in a very slow oven for an hour or more to encourage them to open up and release their seed.

- ❖ Store the dried seed in jars in a cool place away from sunlight.

REMEMBER!

- ! Only collect seed from healthy trees and shrubs that have minimal insect damage and healthy leaves and foliage.
- ! Choose seed from a site that has several healthy specimens of the desired species.
- ! Never collect seed from a single remnant tree.
- ! Collect seed from different parent trees of the same species within a distance of 100 metres apart. This will ensure a good genetic diversity.

Who can help?

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