

VEGETATION ESTABLISHMENT TECHNIQUES

Fencing and weed control are vital for successful vegetation establishment !

TUBESTOCK

Tubestock are seedlings grown in narrow tubes of between 10-30 cm high and approximately 6-9 months old. They will establish and grow quickly under the right conditions.

When do I plant ?

Plant seedlings in early spring when soil moisture is high. If the soil tends to dry out in late spring, planting in early autumn is suitable. The site should be already ripped (usually best done in summer), along contour lines if planting on a hill, and should be sprayed at least twice in the preceding autumn and spring.

Where and what do I plant ?

Greening Australia has site specific species lists outlining species suitable for different areas, for example wet or dry areas, stony hills, deep soils, acid and saline soils. See contact details below.

What to remember when planting tubestock

- Water seedlings well before planting.
- Make sure the planting hole is as close as possible in size to the tubestock.
- Break-off any roots sticking out the bottom of the tube before planting.
- Remove the seedling from the tube (holding it upside down) with one knock, trying to minimise damage.
- Ensure the stem of the seedlings is no deeper in the soil than in the tube.
- Leave a small depression around the seedling to allow water to collect.
- Water immediately after planting.
- If mulching, keep mulch away from direct contact with the stem.
- Fence the area to protect seedlings from stock and pest animals.
- Remember to keep free of weeds.
- Blocks of plantings or lanes of at least 20m wide are much more beneficial to the landscape than narrow tree lanes.

It is best to plant close to existing patches of vegetation than in an open location.

DIRECT SEEDING

Direct seeding is where seed is directly drilled into the ground. It is significantly cheaper than planting tubestock, and takes a lot less time. Historically, it is slightly less successful than planting tubestock. Greening Australia will do direct seeding on a contract basis or a direct seeding machine can be hired from the Yass Area Network of Landcare Groups.

When do I plant?

It is recommended that herbicide applications up to 12 months before planting are necessary to reduce competition from weeds and grasses, and to build up soil moisture. Spring is the best time to carry out direct seeding. Fence the area before planting.

Where and what do I plant?

See Greening Australia for site specific species recommendations (contacts below). A seed mix of 30-40 species is recommended with seeding rates of 0.5 to 1kg per hectare or 200 to 400 grams per kilometre of tree line. Seed can be bought or collected from nearby remnant vegetation.

For further information

Greenotes, Greening Australia ACT & SE NSW PO Box 538, Jamison Centre, ACT 2614 ph (02) 6253 3035
fax (02) 6253 3145 email gaact@netinfo.com.au

- *Greenotes* #5 Collecting Australian Native Tree Seed
- *Greenotes* #6 Propagating Australian Native Trees

Who can help ?

Greening Australia ACT & SE phone (02) 6253 3035
Department of Land and Water Conservation, Yass phone (02) 6226 1433
The Farm Forestry Network, see Greening Australia.