



BUCKS FOR BUSH

Revegetation, Years 2, 3, 4

Additional information on revegetation maintenance can be found in the SE NRM Board's book "Planning Revegetation on Farms in the South East" by Stokes 2010 pages 67 - 70.

As time progresses there will be less need for hands on management of your revegetation. In the meantime, years two and three will be critical for success.

Use the records you kept, including plant survival, to determine what needs to be done next. Start the review process in March, when you'll better know how well your plants have survived.

Weed Control

Your plants are still vulnerable to weed competition. Be vigilant and continue your weed control efforts. Target the big problem weeds like respouting pasture grasses or seedlings, thistles and woody weeds. Check the fence lines for weeds that birds or foxes may have brought in; blackberry, bridal creeper, olives etc.

Direct seeded plants will still be very small. You will need to target all weeds. Use a shielded spray unit when using herbicide to protect the young plants. Talk to your revegetation contractor for more advice.

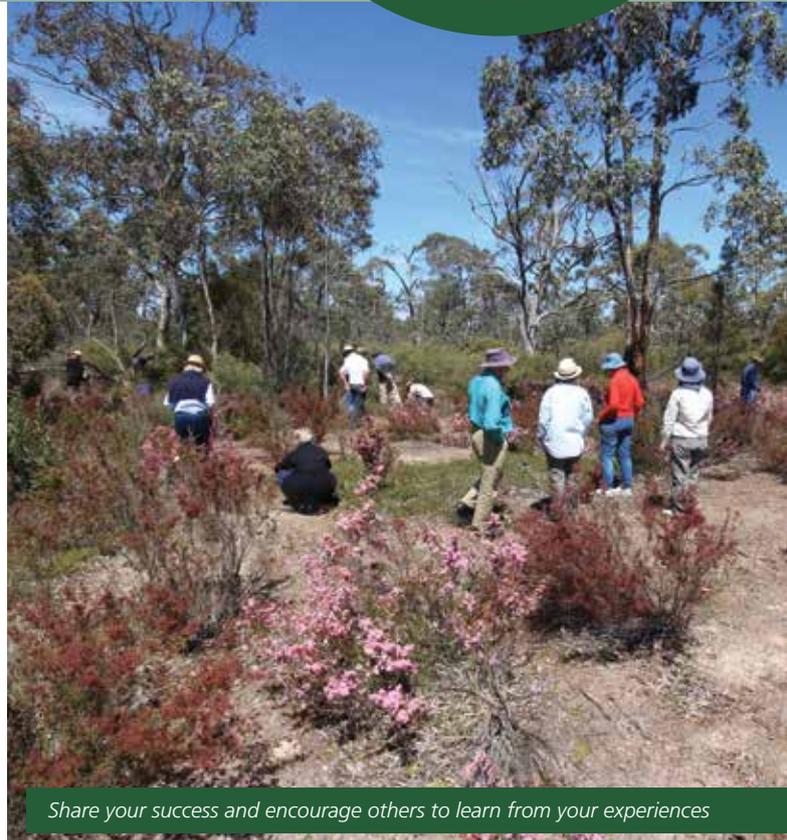
If your weed control wasn't perfect last year make sure a better job is done, be more vigilant with timing and follow up control.

Fences

Check and maintain fences. Errant livestock can decimate revegetation. Don't be tempted to use your livestock to 'tidy up' the weeds and grasses under your vegetation at any stage. They will set back the growth of the plants by many years. In a shelter belt, they will eat all the shelter at stock height – this defeats the point!



Without management, densely established trees will grow thin and provide poor habitat and shelter



Share your success and encourage others to learn from your experiences

Pest Control

Insects should be less of a problem for tubestock. Direct seeding will likely still need protection from red-legged earth mite (RLEM) and snails. Continue control as required.

PIRSA Forestry has a range of factsheets including control measures for various insects that may be found in revegetation.

Maintain good pest animal control. Rabbits, hares and deer are still a problem for your plants. Kangaroos will easily damage plants for several years. Talk to your Authorised Officer for advice. You must have a permit from Natural Resources South East to control native animals.

Tree Guards

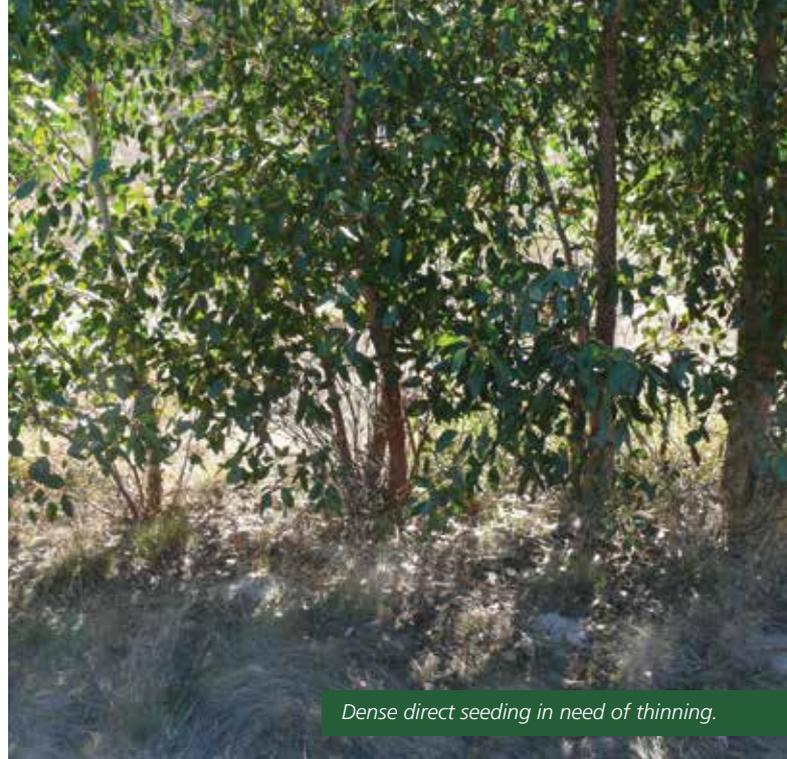
Aim to remove all tree guards after six to 12 months.

Plants – Too Few / Too Many

Use your plant survival records to see if you need to order replacement plants. Only order plants for gaps that will not be filled by the plants that survived. They are still small, but will grow much bigger. For example, golden wattle can reach six to eight metre tall and three to four metres wide. Maybe all the plants of one species died. Speak to your revegetation contractor to see if some should be replaced.

If necessary, fill smaller gaps with smaller shrubs only, e.g. myrtle wattle or tea tree.

Has your revegetation been a roaring success and you now have too many plants? After three or four years you can thin some out. **Do not do this earlier.** Young plants two metres tall can mysteriously die for no apparent reason. Trees really need to be six to ten metres apart in shelterbelts and ten to 20m apart in habitat plantings. Leave felled plants where they fall on site. They will rot down and provide nutrients and mulch for your other plants.



Recording Survival

Keep recording plant survival to year five as a minimum. Photopoints can be taken until trees reach maturity. You will be pleased you put a photopoint 100m away looking back at the revegetation. After five years your closer photopoints will only show a mass of leaves.

What Next?

Enjoy your success! AND tell all your friends how good your revegetation is doing. Plan the next area for revegetation.

