

WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

How to prepare and plant a wildlife corridor on your property



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How to avoid losing your new plants after all that hard work.

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A plant selection guide of indigenous species that will thrive in our conditions.



Wildlife corridors are our most common projects. And with good reason.

Local landholders often have excess space on boundary fences and are looking to enhance their properties to help deal with erosion, add animal shelter, enhance bird-life and generally improve the aesthetics of their properties.

But like so many big ideas, the question is – where to start?

In this guide, we have tried to bring our collective experience to assist you in preparing and planting a successful wildlife corridor that will enhance your property for many decades to come.



Plan early and reserve your plants

For planting from September to November, reserve your plants in February or March of the same year. We know that's early, but if you want 1000 plants, they need to be grown!

We recommend:

Neangar Nursery, Bendigo
www.neangarnursery.com.au

Newstead Natives, Newstead
newsteadnatives.wordpress.com

Deep rip to open up your soil

Ripping is the process of breaking up often heavily compacted soil to allow water in and root development.

Plants grown in ripped soil are easy to plant and establish quickly, with no need to water.

Never plant in holes drilled by a post-hole digger. The smooth sides will make the roots go round in circles.

Ripped soil allows the roots to spread out and find their own water quickly.

David Griffiths at Geometree can help you with all your ripping needs:

Geometree, Integrated Landscape Management. 0418 591 267

Planning and preparing your site



A good plan and effective site preparation will mean you order the right number of plants and make planting easy.

We suggest 6 rows, 4 meters apart. Small plants are spaced at 2 meters and trees at 10 meters. For a typical wildlife corridor or shelter belt of 300 metres, this equates to 900 plants.

This may sound like a lot, but with the right equipment and a few friends, this can be done in a day.

The best way to plant is with a Pottiputki. These allow you to get your plants deep in the soil without breaking your back.

Always plant deep in the ground and cover the potting soil. Potting soil is porous and dries quickly. If left uncovered, your plants may die on the first warm day.

By burying the potting mix 5 cm in the ground and covering it with soil, you don't even need to water.



Pests and competition



It is written that the three main things to deal with when growing plants are:

Competition, competition and competition!

The main competitors you will encounter will be hares, non-native grasses and livestock. But watch out for wallabies and deer that will graze on anything. And of course rabbits will dig up your new plants in the freshly turned ground.

By controlling these, your plants will have a fighting chance of surviving and growing quickly.



Hares

Hares live on grass lands and have an instinct to preserve their home by removing any tree in sight.

They will bite off a tree even as large as one to two metres.

The tree will lose its shape and grow from multiple trunks.

Protect your plants with plant guards.

Muckleford landcare can lend you plant guards that should remain in place for one to two years.

Non-Native Grasses

Grasses compete for subsurface moisture.

Some fodder grasses, such as Phalaris, can send their roots down over two meters. Phalaris is also toxic to smaller herbivores such as kangaroos.

While controlling with pesticides is effective, not everyone likes this approach. Spraying also kills native grasses, slowing habitat regeneration. If you don't spray, try to keep grasses as low as possible within one meter of your plants by mowing regularly.

Stock

Fence your planting area to protect from stock. This can be permanent or temporary fencing.

Plant selection

There are no rules, but if you would like a selection of indigenous plants, these are our recommendations:

Large

- Eucalyptus sideroxylon - Red Iron Bark
- Eucalyptus melliodora - Yellow Gum
- Eucalyptus petiolaris syn. leucoxylon rosea - Pink Flowered Yellow Gum
- Eucalyptus macrocarpa - Grey Box
- Eucalyptus polyanthemos - Red Box

Medium

- Acacia aspera - Rough wattle
- Acacia dealbata - Silver wattle
- Acacia floribunda - "Blackthorn"
- Acacia genistifolia - Prickly Spreading Wattle
- Acacia implexa - Lightwood
- Acacia melanoxylon - Blackwood
- Acacia paradoxa - Hedge Wattle
- Acacia provincialis - Wirilda
- Acacia pycnantha - Golden Wattle
- Acacia verniciflua - Varnish Wattle
- Allocasuarina verticillate - Drooping She-Oak
- Allocasuarina lehmanii - Bulloak
- Bursaria spinosa - Sweet Bursaria
- Daviesia ulicifolia - Gorse Bitter-Pea
- Dianella admixta - Black-anther Flax-lily
- Dillwynia cinerascens - Grey Parrot Pea
- Pultenaea daphnoides - Large-leaf Bush-Pea

How Landcare can Help

Contact us for advice on preparing your site and obtaining your plants.

Once you are ready to plant, let us know and we can arrange a volunteer army to help plant and guard your new plants.

Fun Fact

You can collect seeds from indigenous plants and sell them to the Creswick seed bank.

See www.seedingvictoria.com.au

Small / Grasses

- Cassinia sifton - Drooping Cassinia
- Chrysocephalum semipapposum - Clustered Everlasting
- Joycea pallida - Silvertop Wallaby-Grass
- Ozothamnus obcordatus - Grey Everlasting
- Xerochrysum viscosum - Sticky everlasting

More information:

Visit us at www.mucklefordlandcare.org or at one of our on-site workshops.

Email us at mucklefordlandcare@gmail.com