

Growing native plants on your property

Why do it?

Reasons for establishing native plants on a larger property scale include:

- * the challenge,
- * aesthetics,
- * providing corridors for wildlife,
- * providing shelter for livestock,
- * preventing erosion,
- * stopping wind-blown soil loss from ploughed paddocks, and
- * looking towards long term land care.

Revegetate first

Restoring and enhancing partially degraded, natural vegetation is cheaper and more efficient than attempting to establish bush using plantation methods. Look to the trees, shrubs and herbs in patches of remnant scrub and along roadsides to find out what the original vegetation was like, then try to recreate this habitat over at least 30% of your property.



For revegetating tree and shrub cover, the following strategies are ranked in order of desirability:

1. protect existing remnant vegetation - this provides the best habitat for wildlife and should be the first option considered.
2. allow local trees and shrubs to regenerate by removing grazing stock - it costs \$\$ to plant purchased trees, with no guarantee of survival, so allowing trees to regenerate naturally is an attractive option. and
3. plant native, locally occurring trees and shrubs - if planting is necessary, consider using species already present in your local area.



Source: Barrett, G, 2000, *Ecological Management for Agricultural Sustainability*, Bird's Australia.

Revegetation and retention plans must be viewed as long-term processes and undertaken with patience and sensitivity to the landscape. Consider the aesthetics and comforts of your own lifestyle by using vegetation to enhance the beauty of your environment.



Keep the paddock trees

There is value in keeping your paddock trees because they:

- * provide pastures, crops and stock with shelter from wind, heat and cold,
- * are effective water pumpers, effectively lowering the water table and reducing the risk of salt being carried to the surface,
- * provide habitats for birds, bats and other animals for resting, feeding and protection,
- * form wildlife corridors and stepping stones to larger patches of vegetation,
- * provide tree hollows that are used as nest sites,
- * are a source of fallen timber that provides habitats for other animals and reptiles, and
- * provide favourable conditions for native grasses and flowering shrubs to prosper.



Source: P. Nicholls, LFW newsletter, 2004.

Create a wildlife friendly dam

If well designed and well vegetated, dams can provide not only much needed drinking water for livestock, but a wonderful area of wildlife habitat.

Whatever the dam's purpose, inclusion of trees, shrubs, grasses and water plants can provide both economic and aesthetic benefits.

The following map is sourced from "Making your dam wildlife friendly" Land for Wildlife Note #2 1999.

The map and further information about creating a wildlife friendly dam, can be found at: www.derm.qld.gov.au/register/p00195aa.pdf.

The site also lists native plants that are recommended for planting in and around dams.

