



# 12 Tips for Successful Revegetation

## Why revegetate your land?

Good planning, preparation, quality plants, and follow-up can make revegetation enjoyable and very rewarding. Some of the many benefits of revegetation include:

- Restoring habitat for native flora and fauna
- Improve soil quality and reduce erosion, waterlogging or salinity
- Provide windbreaks and shelter for livestock
- Increase the aesthetic appeal and financial value of your land

Because most of the Shire is bushfire-prone, revegetation should be planned carefully to maintain low fuel zones around houses. The Shire's Fire Safety Team can provide information on firebreak requirements and managing fuel loads.

## 12 Tips for Successful Revegetation:



### Tip 1 - Questions to consider

- **What are my goals?** What do you want to achieve e.g. stop erosion, improve biodiversity, create wildlife corridors?
- **Where do I want to plant?** Decide where you will plant e.g. paddocks, creekline or bushland. Consider if you will need to create access tracks and firebreaks.
- **Which soil types and conditions?** Soil influences plant selection and site preparation.
- **Which species should I plant?** This will depend on your goals and site conditions.
- **Is the area fenced off from livestock?** Fencing protects plants from grazing and trampling.
- **What preparation will the site need?** Weed control, ripping, or mounding may be necessary. You may need a contractor to assist.
- **What planting method will I use?** Direct seeding, machine planting or hand planting?
- **Where will I source seedlings/seed?** You may be eligible to receive seedlings from the Shire's Seedlings for Landcare Program. Otherwise, talk to your local nurseries.
- **How many seedlings/how much seed will I need?** This depends on the size of the planting area, your goals and how much time you have to manage your planting.
- **How will I maintain the planting?** Will you have the time and tools for follow up weed control and watering during the summer months?

## **Tip 2 - Choose the right plants**

Planting local native species will provide the most suitable food and habitat for local native wildlife. They also stand the best chance of survival as they are well-adapted to local soil, rainfall and weather conditions. When selecting seedlings look for healthy, actively growing seedlings (avoid purchasing old, overgrown, or root-bound seedlings). The Shire's free Landscape and Revegetation Guidelines booklet is a great starting point (available for download at [www.mundaring.wa.gov.au](http://www.mundaring.wa.gov.au) or pick up a free copy from the Shire Administration Centre)

## **Tip 3 - Prepare the site**

Begin weed control and site preparation at least 6 to 12 months before planting. For shelterbelt planting on compacted soils, consider deep ripping to improve aeration and moisture retention. Weed control makes planting easier and improves survival rates. It needs to be done regularly to ensure seedlings are not 'choked out' by regrowth and starved of light, nutrients and water. Infrastructure such as fences, water tanks, and irrigation should ideally be installed well before planting takes place, especially if heavy machinery needs to access the site.

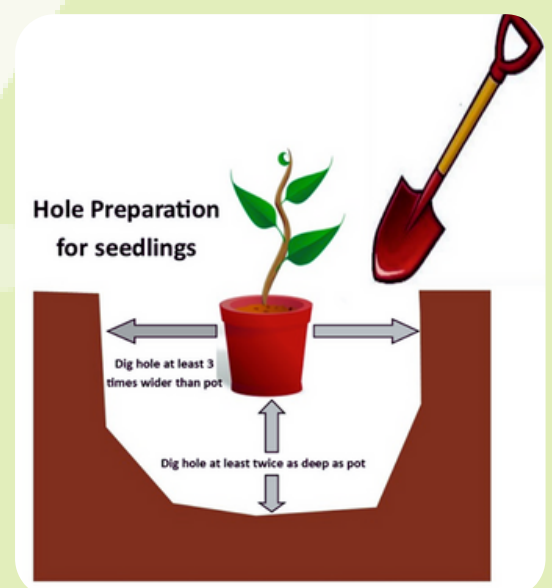
## **Tip 4 - Improve the soil**

Assess the condition of the soil to see if compost, fertiliser and/or a soil wetting agent is required. This is especially important in sandy and water repellent sites. Use caution when using fertilisers with some natives such as Grevilleas, Hakeas, Banksias and Proteas, which are sensitive to phosphorus. Native plant and low phosphorus controlled-release plant food formulations are readily available. If frost is a problem, do not fertilise until risk of frosts is over (fertiliser encourages fresh young growth which is very susceptible to frost damage). An upturned flowerpot placed over a seedling can protect it from frost overnight (remember to remove the pot in the morning).

## **Tip 5 - Prepare the hole**

The key to seedling survival is to dig a hole at least twice as deep and 3 to 4 times as wide as the seedling container (pot). The deeper the hole and the looser the soil, the easier it will be for roots to find their way down, which is especially important for accessing nutrients and water in dry months.

If the soil is dry, soak the hole with water and backfill with a mix of soil (and any required soil improvers such as wetting agent, compost or slow-release native fertiliser). Ensure soil improvers are mixed thoroughly into the soil to avoid burning the delicate roots of young seedlings.



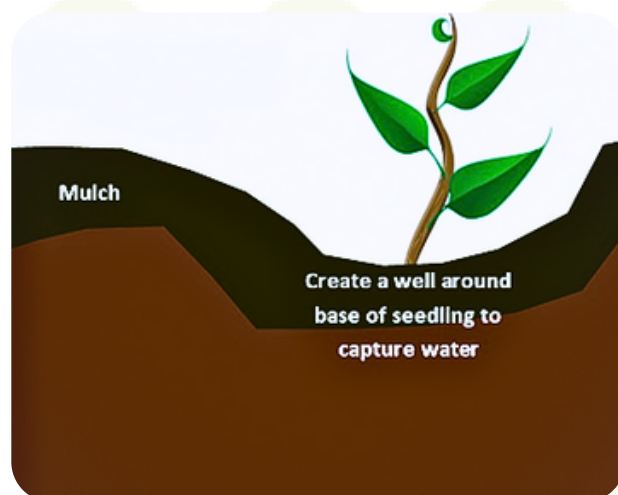
## **Tip 6 - Choose the right time**

Plant seedlings soon after receiving them to ensure the best chance of survival (before they become root-bound in pots). Schedule planting after the first good winter rains when the soil is moist (this is usually when creeks and streams are starting to flow). In the Perth Hills, June to July usually wet enough to plant. Wet or waterlogged sites such as creeklines can be planted later in the year once water levels drop.

## **Tip 7 - Use the right technique**

If planting with tube stock, soak seedlings in a shallow dish of water (or water them using a watering can or hose) to assist in removing them from the pots. Hold the pot upside down (using fingers to prevent seedling falling out) and gently squeeze or tap the plant and root ball out of the tube. If the roots are coiled and only if the plant is pot bound, gently tease out the roots (but do not tease dry roots this can damage them). If the plant is not pot-bound, do not interfere with the root

system as some plants (e.g. hakeas) are sensitive to root disturbance. Place seedling in the centre of the hole and back fill with soil, loosening any compacted soil as you go, taking care to ensure the root collar sits just below ground level, ensuring to cover the growing medium (in which the root ball is contained). Once backfilled, gently press the soil down around the root ball to get rid of any air spaces in the soil. To optimise water retention, place the seedling at least 50mm below the surrounding ground level and create a saucer shaped depression that can hold at least 5 litres of water.



## **Tip 8 - Don't forget to mulch**

Adding a good quality mulch around the seedling helps retain moisture in the soil, suppresses weeds and lowers soil temperature in summer. It also helps build soil health as it breaks down and feeds soil bacteria. Ensure mulch is from a reputable supplier to avoid introducing Dieback or weeds. Do not allow the mulch to lie or build up against the seedling stem (trunk) as this can cause collar rot. Laying mulch too thickly can prevent water filtering through, so check that soil underneath is moist following watering (if not, remove some of the mulch).

## **Tip 9 - Protect the seedlings**

Take measures to safeguard young plants from threats like rabbits. Use sturdy guards and stakes that won't easily blow away or fall over. Permanent or temporary electric fences can be used to help keep stock out of the planting area. Staking of semi-mature trees may also be necessary to give them additional support until they are established.





## **Tip 10 - Don't forget the water**

Ensure your plants are well watered in immediately following planting (half a bucket to a bucket or more per plant depending on size of plant, soil type etc). Plants and irrigation equipment should be monitored regularly, especially during summer. If you notice wilting or browning, these are signs of water stress. Deep watering once or twice a week over summer is better than daily light watering. Deep watering will encourage optimal root development.



## **Tip 11 - Monitor and follow up**

Watch out for wildlife interference, such as birds, kangaroos, and wallabies, which may disturb tree guards or dislodge seedlings out of curiosity. Keep a close watch for signs of moisture stress as temperatures rise, and provide deep soakings when necessary to encourage root growth. Regularly check for weed and grass growth, and consider a follow-up weed control in spring and autumn.



## **Tip 12 - Prevent Spread of Dieback**

Revegetation activities have the potential to introduce and spread Phytophthora Dieback, which can kill many plant species. Things you can do to minimise the risk of Phytophthora Dieback being introduced or spread around your property include:

- Buy plants from Nursery Industry Accreditation Scheme Australia (NIASA) nurseries
- Ensure vehicles, tools, footwear, equipment, and machinery are clean and free of mud and soil when entering and exiting revegetation areas
- Undertake planting when the soil is moist, not wet (as Dieback spores can be more easily spread in wet, muddy soil sticking to vehicles, tools etc)
- Water for plants should be from mains water supply (water from creeks or dam may contain dieback spores)
- If you think your plants are affected by Dieback, they can be sprayed with Phosphite, which can improve survival rate
- For more information on preventing and managing Dieback visit [www.dwg.org.au](http://www.dwg.org.au)

**For more information visit the Shire's website at  
[www.mundaring.wa.gov.au](http://www.mundaring.wa.gov.au) or contact a Shire Environmental Officer  
on 9290 6666 or email [environment@mundaring.wa.gov.au](mailto:environment@mundaring.wa.gov.au).**