

Tips for tree planting success

Macleay Landscape Recovery Workshops



Before planting is the easiest time to control weeds and grass growth at the planting site. Competition from weeds and grass will reduce growth and establishment rates. Improve compacted soils by removing stock, deep ripping, or adding mulch weeks before planting.



1. Dig the hole at least 1½ times deeper than the pot. Place fertilizer and/or water crystals in the base of the hole.



2. Pre-water and gently extract the seedling from the pot and tease or cut tightly-packed roots.



3. Place the seedling in the hole so that the soil level in the pot matches ground level. Backfill with topsoil gently.



4. Water in the seedling with about 5L of water to remove any air pockets within the hole. Create a shallow dam for water to soak into the root zone.



5. Finish the job by placing the weed mat, tree guard, and mulch around the plant. Weed mats made of natural materials such as jute or wet newspaper reduce weed growth and will eventually bio-degrade. Plastic guards should be collected when no longer required.



You will need to look after the planting site for up to 3 years to establish your trees.

After you plant:

- ✓ Keep them watered during dry times for the first year.
- ✓ Keep the weeds and grass away from around the plant to reduce competition.
- ✓ Adding mulch will reduce weed growth and improve soil condition.
- ✓ Maintain tree guards to prevent wind damage or browsing until they can be removed.

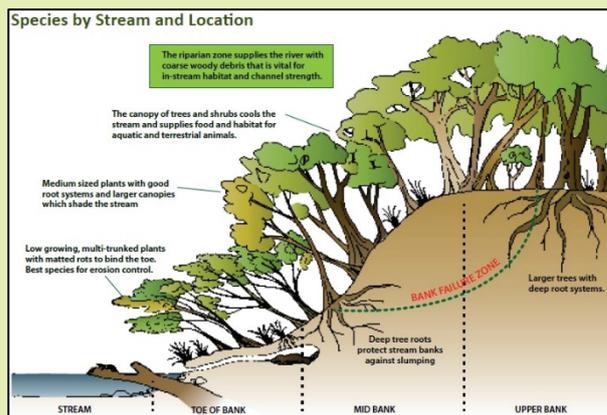
Planting designs

The selection and arrangement of plantings need to suit their location and purpose.

Riparian Zones

Plants are arranged according to their position on the bank.

- Toe: Lomandra, Bottlebrush, and Thin-fruited Tea-tree.
- Middle: Sandpaper Fig, Water Gum etc.
- Upper: Rainforest species, Eucalypts, and sclerophyll edge species.



Gully plantings

Plantings in drainage gullies to extend existing vegetation.

- Narrow and meandering sites with plants arranged according to conditions.
- Rainforest species in the gully, Paperbarks in wet areas, Eucalypts, Wattles and She-oak along the edges.
- Gates for maintenance access.



Corridor plantings

Planting in rows along contours, river frontage, or fence lines.

- Weed and grass growth is mulched or slashed between the rows as the plantings establish.
- Plants spaced every 3-5m along the rows, and off-set between the rows for canopy development.



Paddock trees

Shade lots, wind breaks, stock lanes, cattle yards, and paddock trees.

- Linear or blocks of 3 rows provides better shelter.
- Select a location carefully for a specific purpose.
- Eucalypts, Figs, exotics, and hardy Wattles, She-oaks, etc.
- Trees can be grown for farm timber.

