

Management of your revegetation



MANAGING PHALARIS IN THE GROUND LAYER

Phalaris in revegetation can be a management issue – ideally this should be dealt with BEFORE you plant with good site preparation in the Spring prior to planting.

If the objective of this site was to establish a high diversity of species, trees and large and small understorey, the phalaris should have been controlled across the whole site and the planting density adjusted.

If the objective was a crash graze area, then this outcome is OK, but the grazing needs to be maintained.



POOR GRAZING MANAGEMENT

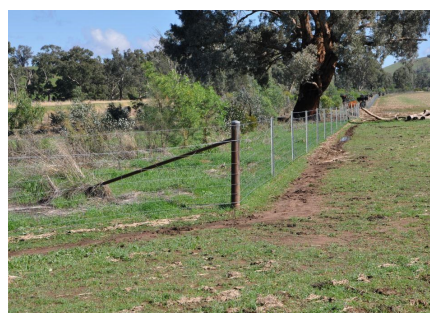
Examples of grazing too hard and long – see the damage to the trees and none of the smaller shrubs have survived.

Groundcover should be at least 70% at all times. This level of disturbance encourages weeds.



GOOD GRAZING MANAGEMENT

These sites have been crash grazed but still maintain groundcover to at least 70% (100% on slopes) and stock have been removed before they damage trees – a good balance here. Young trees need to be treated carefully until they are at least 5 years old or above the browse height.



STOCK TRACKING

Try to anticipate management issues in the design by fencing similar land management units together - if fencing a wet gully, put ALL the wet areas inside the fence so it can be managed the same way. Protect vulnerable crossing and traffic areas with gravel. Simple placement of timber, wing fences and even just a visual barrier can stop this happening. Once water is running down a stock track some drainage work may be required to prevent more serious erosion.



SHORT-LIVED WATTLES—IS THAT A PROBLEM?

Some wattle species are short-lived—they are a coloniser plant that has evolved to grow quickly and fix soil nitrogen and make soil conditions better for other plants. They drop as much seed as they can, then the adults die. This is great for biodiversity!! Small birds love the dense undergrowth and dead branches. Manage the effects of this by trying to not plant wattles close to the fence, and use herbicide to keep regrowth clear of the fence line, as part of annual maintenance.



Fire

Fire as a threat – Design strategic breaks and separation from assets to reduce fire risk. Position breaks to protect stubble from burning.

Fire as a tool - Using fire to manage weeds and pests is really only safe in mature plantations. Young trees can be easily killed. More mature trees can withstand cool fires, and may sprout again after a severe fire.



This is an example of what to expect in a phalaris dominated pasture if you don't control first. Can be a habitat feature but it does effect plant survival.



This is an example of inadequate control of Lucerne in the tree plot, resulting in regrowth that is now compromising tree health.



Weeds and Pests

Revegetation areas are “a harbour for weeds and pests” is a self -fulfilling prophecy - If you put your revegetation areas on the bottom of the management priority list every year, then they WILL harbour pests and weeds!

- Don't worry too much about the annual weeds (eg. annual grasses, thistles)– these will drop out over the first few years.
- Perennial and woody weeds may need to be managed – check the area each year and treat accordingly.
- Pest animals need to be managed regularly – maintain annual baiting for foxes and rabbits.



- In 2008, CSIRO looked at the effects of revegetation on foxes.
- Yes—there can be increases in fox activity, but the benefits to production far outweighed the impact and effective control programs were successful

Wombats & Kangaroos

Over the long term, we have made conditions drier in our gullies and flats and increased the areas suitable for wombats. There is no question that they can have an impact on infrastructure if they choose to burrow in some locations, however they are part of the ecosystem.



Overgrazing of the ground layer in remnant or revegetation areas by Kangaroos may be an issue for biodiversity and erosion, especially in droughts.

Contact the Dept of Environment in NSW for more information on wombat and kangaroo management .



This is a revegetation area that was planted in 1999 on top of a hill in the Thugga catchment. This site has developed into a fantastic biodiversity area.