



# Site Preparation For Revegetation

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**Adequate weed control is the most important aspect of site preparation for revegetation. Weed control allows seedlings to grow free of competition from surrounding pasture and weeds, allowing for better seedling establishment. Reducing surrounding competition is most important when seedlings are in their first year of growth, as seedlings that compete for water, nutrients and light can result in high losses and slow growth. Seedlings that have no competition will have a greater chance of survival through the first summer of growth.**

The level and type of site preparation required is site specific and depends on a number of factors, however the most common type of preparation undertaken in the HDLN area include;

- Pre- season weed control
- Ripping and mounding (optional)
- Pre- planting weed control



**A seedling growing free of competition**



**Site preparation using the Spot Spray technique**

### **Pre– season weed control**

Conducting weed control in seasons prior to planting is recommended for sites where there is a substantial infestation of environmental weeds e.g. Blackberry and Pittosporum. In the case where there is a large amount of pasture weed such as phalaris grass or thistle, application of a knockdown herbicide is used generally 6- 10 months prior to planting in an attempt to break down the weed seed bank. E.g. apply herbicide in November (prior to plants seeding) for an August planting in the following year.

### **Ripping and mounding**

Although ripping and mounding is not essential to all sites, it can provide better growing conditions for sites that have a heavy soil type and on ground that is prone to water logging, particularly volcanic soils. Soil ripping allows seedling roots to penetrate the soil with more ease resulting in quicker seedling establishment. Ripping is recommended during dryer months to increase the shattering effect of the soil, resulting in greater root penetration. Mounding is appropriate in areas prone to water logging, and saline sites. A list of ripping and mounding contractors can be gained from the HDLN.



**Site preparation using ripping and mounding**

### **Pre– planting weed control**

This is the most important stage of site preparation. Spray the area to be planted (using one of the below methods) 3-4 weeks prior to planting. It is recommended that a knockdown herbicide combined with a residual herbicide is used, as this will provide a competition free environment for the initial stages of seedling growth. The knockdown herbicide will provide an initial kill to the site and the residual herbicide will prevent the regrowth of most undesirable plants for up to four or more months following application. When using particular residual herbicide, add 2% ammonium sulphate per 100L of spray mix. It is important to remember that particular residual herbicides require sufficient soil moisture within a short period after application to prevent damage to seedlings.

### **Application methods**

**Spot Spraying** With the aim of recreating a similar planting density to that of a natural bushland in the Heytesbury district, revegetation is undertaken at a planting density of 2,000 seedlings per/ha. Therefore, when spot spraying, spots should be placed two meters apart. Spots should be at least 50cm in diameter.

**Strip Spraying** Strip spraying is a method where several continuous strips are sprayed .5– 1.5m wide. Strips should be sprayed so that seedlings are two meters apart. This method is sometimes less time consuming and allows for easier follow up weed control.

**Disclaimer:** The Heytesbury District Landcare Network accepts no responsibility for any consequence arising from information provided in this fact sheet. Information provided is based on conditions found in the HDLN area and no where else. Its is your responsibility to use registered chemicals and follow label instructions.

## **Heytesbury District Landcare Network**

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