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Native Revegetation Establishment Guidelines

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Site preparation

Site preparation is an essential part of establishing seedlings.

A well prepared site will enable landholders to better manage their newly established vegetation, and ensure the greatest chance at seedling survival. Northern Tablelands Local Land Services staff can provide assistance in all stages of the revegetation process.

Good site preparation will:


- reduce competition from grasses and weeds;
- help build soil moisture;



- provide the best opportunity for rainfall to infiltrate the soil; and
- allow for rapid and healthy root development.

Once you have selected your site and methods of revegetation, the following steps for ground preparation will give your revegetation project the best chance at survival.

Shelter belts and tree lines with seedlings

Method	Application
<p>Control weeds and grasses</p> 	<p>Ideally 4 applications of a broad-spectrum herbicide should be applied over a strip 1 – 2m wide in each row. This should be completed as soon as possible so that moisture can start accumulating.</p> <p>Spray 1 - 1 year before planting Spray 2 - Follow up 3 – 6 months later Spray 3 - 6 – 10 weeks after second spray Spray 4 - Final spray before planting</p>
Ripping	Ripping should be to a depth of at least 600mm. Depending on the soil, each row may need to be ripped up to 3 times, 30cm apart. The end result should be a fine soil that is well broken apart without any large clods. Ripping will ensure that any rainfall is immediately stored in the soil profile.
Cultivation	Cultivation to be completed after ripping to ensure a fine tilth and allow a full profile of moisture to be available at planting time.
Mounding	This is recommended in most soil types. Mounding should be a minimum of 5cm above the natural ground level.

Important

- If using a residual chemical at the final spray, allow a withholding period of 25 days or 25mm of rain before planting.
- Avoid ripping in sandy soils unless clay subsoil is present.
- Avoid deep ripping clay soils when wet.



Direct seeding

Direct seeding is about using purpose built machinery to sow seed instead of planting pre-grown seedlings. It is ideal for the larger seeded species and site preparation is not as intensive as for seedlings.

Weed and grass seed competition is a major reason for failure in revegetation projects. The table below outlines the applications required to prepare a site for direct seeding. Following these steps will give your project the best chance at success.

Method	Application
Slashing and obstacle removal	Direct seeding is completed using a 4WD. Slashing provides a clear path to follow when seeding takes place. Remove any debris (stumps, logs, sticks, rocks) that will impede the 4WD and seeding machine's progress.
Control weeds and grasses	Ideally 3 applications of a broad-spectrum herbicide should be applied over a strip 1m wide in each row. Spray 1 – The new growth after slashing Spray 2 – Follow up 3 – 6months later Spray 3 – Can be completed at the time of seeding or in the days before
Ripping (optional)	Ripping should be done to a depth of at least 300mm. Ripping will allow rainfall to be stored in the soil profile.



Additional considerations

Northern Tablelands Local Land Services staff will assist you selecting appropriate species and methods for revegetating your site. We will also provide advice on ideal planting timeframes depending on your location.

Ideally, preparation of a site should begin at least 12 months before the seedlings or seeds are to be planted. Sites that are to be planted or seeded need to have livestock removed both during site preparation and as plants are establishing and growing.



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