

For sites with annual grasses and weeds
- three herbicide sprays (late spring/early summer, autumn, winter)

Initial spray – late spring/early summer

As a general rule of thumb, landholders will herbicide spray annual grasses and weeds late spring/early summer to stop seed set. In some cases, landholders will slash the grasses before the seed heads mature.

Second/Third spray – autumn break/early winter

Following the autumn break and germination of annual grasses and weeds, a second herbicide spray is required. If another germination of annual grasses or weeds occurs, a further spray will be required. Each spray is helping to reduce the number of weeds in the site.

Final spray (or two) – late autumn/winter

It is best to spray several weeks before revegetation activities begin so that the grasses and weeds are dead when hand planting and direct seeding takes place. If there is another germination episode because of delays eg weather or contractor, a further spray will be required.

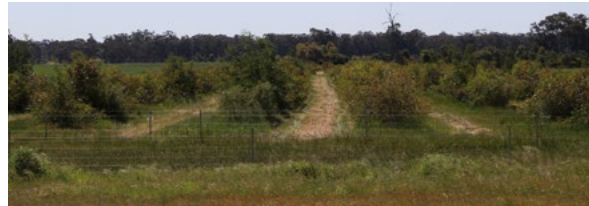


We decided to strip spray as there were native grasses in the site along with some annual grasses and weeds”

STEP 3

Follow-up works to gain the best results

Slash or mow between the rows of direct seeding to reduce annual grasses competition and leave a mulch layer and provide the best possible outcome for germination, survival and growth.



“We slashed between the rows to optimise growth”

Spray around hand planting (use a rubbish bin to cover the plant to protect from herbicide spray). This will reduce competition and provide the plants with the best possible outcome for survival and growth.



“I covered each plant with a bin before spot spraying around each one to ensure optimum growth”

Hand water the hand planted eucalypts and shrubs over the first summer.

Good luck with your revegetation project!

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Best practice site preparation for native revegetation sites



Case study by Longwood Plains' landholders and extension officer

This brochure is designed to outline 'best practice' site preparation for native revegetation projects in areas with weeds, annual grasses, or deep rooted perennials such as Phalaris.

Revegetation sites need to be planned well in advance, and up to two years for areas with Phalaris.

It is critical that expert chemical advice is sought from an agronomist or chemical merchandiser familiar with the weed or grass species that needs to be killed or controlled. It is a good idea to request any written information on trials as some chemicals are more effective than others.

Chemical labels must be carefully read and the instructions strictly followed.

A couple of notes on plants and guards:

- Order your local indigenous plants early to avoid getting plants smaller than what you anticipated or missing out altogether.
- Use plastic mesh guards to protect plants such as Bulokes from browsing animals eg hares.
- Use environmentally friendly cardboard or bio-degradable guards. If you do use plastic guards, reuse or recycle them.

STEP 1

Assessment of the site that is to be revegetated

- Identification of native grasses (no need for herbicide spray); weeds and annual grasses; deep rooted perennials such as Phalaris and Cocksfoot; woody weeds; as well as other problematic weeds
- Identification of compacted soils and the need and suitability for ripping (not on hill country or creeks with steep banks where potential erosion problems could occur)



Plants struggle to germinate and survive in phalaris

STEP 2

Actions and Timing (seasonal conditions may affect timing)

For sites with Phalaris or other deep rooted perennials – 12-months or more program

Phalaris is a deep rooted perennial that is difficult to kill without the appropriate rate of chemical. An herbicide spray for annual grasses will initially kill phalaris but it will grow back. Government grants for revegetation projects may only be offered once the phalaris is killed.

A 12-month period is required to ensure that Phalaris is killed. Obtain expert chemical advice at the beginning and ensure contractors use the correct rate of chemical to kill the Phalaris. If germination of Phalaris occurs, spot spray individual plants (or consider a second spray treatment).



Phalaris killed – “you need to follow the chemical label and get the right chemical rate for killing Phalaris”

For sites that have soil compaction – summer action

Ripping is recommended away from mature eucalypts in sites with compacted soils in plains country. This will break the hard top and allow moisture into the site to assist with plant germination, growth and survival. Many landholders rotary hoe the site after ripping to break down large chunks and provide an improved soil bed for revegetation. Ripping should be done in summer to ensure maximum benefits of moisture retention in the site are gained prior to planting and direct seeding. Ripping may not be appropriate in hilly country due to potential erosion problems.



“Rip compacted sites in summer to allow maximum moisture into the site prior to planting and seeding in autumn/winter”