

# Longwood Plains Conservation Management Network



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## LESSONS LEARNED - “How to Plant a Farm Dam”

**Know the high watermark of the dam** – wattles that are planted in these areas that become inundated in wet years will probably die.

**Suggest not planting in drainage lines** – leave them for water flow and to regenerate over time naturally.

**Plan and control weeds** before planting and direct seeding commences. A three step weed control program needs to be undertaken. Step 1 - spray late spring/early summer before seed-set of annual grasses, Step 2 - spray after the autumn break and Step 3 - spray prior to planting/direct seeding.

**Kill Phalaris** prior to revegetation works. Follow the instructions on the chemical label and use the rate to kill Phalaris. Phalaris is a deep rooted perennial that needs a different rate to annual grasses and weeds. Burning and slashing will reduce the biomass but then spray when the Phalaris is actively growing to get the best results.

**Only plant local indigenous species** and use your local nursery or plant supplier. You do not want invasive species in your dam site. If your site has been funded by government, you are required to use local indigenous species and they are best suited to your site.

**Make sure plants go into the correct situation** ie Bare Banks, Plains Grassy Woodland, Edge of Dam/Gully and Water.

**Weedy sites** – consider planting the larger and hardier species in very weedy sites unless you are prepared to do ongoing weed control in the early years. Plant the smaller species in the less weedy areas. Remember the three step weed control program above.

**Silver Banksias (*Banksia marginata*)** - try a few and see how they go.

**Smaller species and Mitchell’s Wattle (*Acacia mitchellii*) is endangered** – try a few in the least weedy areas or in native grass areas and see how they go

**Water plants** may be hard to source.

Use our **website – [longwoodplains.org](http://longwoodplains.org)** and you will find under Resources at the top “What to Plant Where – a practical guide to planting farm dams” and the species lists.

Good luck with any farm dam plantings and you are welcome to contact **Susan Sleigh**, Landcare Facilitator of the Longwood Plains Conservation Management Network on **0447 904301** or email **[susansleigh8@gmail.com](mailto:susansleigh8@gmail.com)**