

ALEP

Aboriginal Landcare Education Program

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Plant Trees and Shrubs



Learning Guide

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Student name:.....

Student number:.....

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to *Plant Trees and Shrubs*. This learning guide covers planting trees and shrubs in both land management and horticultural situations. You might need to be able to plant trees and shrubs working for councils, carrying out bush regeneration work, ranger work or when managing your own country. Training for this unit should be completed on the job or out in the field over an extended period of time.



EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

To complete this training you will need the following:

1. Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
2. Safety gear for field work including first aid kit and water.
2. Access to a range of hand tools such as shovels, mattocks and wheelbarrows.
3. Trees and shrubs to plant.

ASSIGNMENTS

There are three assignments you will need to complete.

Some of these assignments may go towards your final assessment.

Section	Assignment	Competent (C) Not yet competent (NYC)	Date Achieved
Getting Prepared	Assignment 1. Project Risk Assessment		
Digging Holes	Assignment 2. Planting Plan		
Inspect and Prepare the Plants	Assignment 3. Carry Out Planting		
Planting and Finishing Up			

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GETTING PREPARED

1A. COLLECTING INFORMATION

Information about planting trees and shrubs can be obtained from many sources. There are excellent books available should you require more detailed information. Here are three useful books available from Greening Australia in the Northern Territory.

- *Native Plants for Top End Gardens*
- *Native Plants for Central Australian Gardens*
- *The Bush Book*

There is also a wealth of information available online.

1. For information on Northern Territory plants, go to the Northern Territory Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sports. They are responsible for managing the flora in the Northern Territory.



www.nretas.nt.gov.au/plants-and-animals

2. For information on local native plants, planting trees and protecting native vegetation contact Greening Australia. Greening Australia also has nurseries where you can buy local native plants.



www.greeningaustralia.org.au

1B. PLANTING SAFELY

There are some dangers associated with planting trees and shrubs. It is important that you be aware of some of the potential dangers so you can avoid getting injured or sick.

Some of the things you can do to keep yourself safe include:

1. Wear thick gardening gloves at all times.
2. Wear appropriate clothes for outdoors (long trousers, hat, sunscreen boots etc.).
3. Watch out for snakes, spiders, wasps etc. and rusty iron or broken glass in amongst grass.
4. Keep a safe distance between workers using hand tools.
5. Learn how to maintain and use hand tools correctly to avoid injury.
6. Always lift heavy objects correctly to avoid injuring your back (see the Resource at the end of this guide).
7. Extreme caution should be taken when using chemicals for weed control and other purposes and extra PPE should be worn. Only properly trained people should use chemicals, you may want to undertake *Treat Weeds* if you have a weed problem.
8. Motorised machinery such as mowers, augers and slashers should also be used with extreme care. Only properly trained people should use motorised machinery.
9. Always carry a first aid kit and make sure someone has a first aid certificate.



Before you begin, use this checklist to confirm you have followed good safety procedures.

SAFETY CHECKLIST ACTIVITY



Long trousers, shirt and boots		
Hat (hard hat if necessary) and gloves		
Sunscreen, insect repellent and sunglasses		
Water		
First aid kit		
Notified others and have phone/ 2 way radio		
Checked weather, road and fire reports		
Notebook		
Permits (if required) and maps		
Additional PPE as needed		

1C. WHY PLANT TREES AND SHRUBS?

Planting trees and shrubs is important for many reasons including:



- To provide habitat for wildlife
- To provide shade
- To provide wind breaks
- To provide dust suppression
- To improve air quality
- To prevent soil erosion
- To beautify areas
- To provide food
- To screen areas
- To protect buildings from storm damage

1D. WHEN TO PLANT?

The best time to plant is during the first rains in the storm time or “build up” just before the wet season proper or as early in the wet season as possible. These early rains soften the dry hard ground, make digging holes easier and will give the young trees the moisture required to establish themselves.

If there are periods with no rain then young plants will need to be watered until more rains come and the proper wet season starts.

Try not to plant at the end of the wet season as when the dry season comes trees will still be too small to survive without water. Planting during the dry season will mean you will have to water every week until the next rains come.

Whenever possible it is best to plant trees and shrubs when the sun is not too hot. Sometimes plants can suffer transplant shock through disturbance to their roots when planting. The best time of day is early morning or late afternoon. The worst time to plant is in the middle of the day when the sun is at its hottest. Also try to avoid planting in really windy conditions as the wind can dry out the soil very quickly.

ACTIVITY

Think about what a plant needs to grow – in your group draw a picture of a plant showing its main parts and list what it needs to grow well.









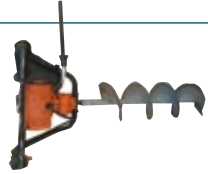






1E. TOOLS AND SUPPLIES NEEDED

Using the correct tools will not only make the job of planting trees easy but will also help to keep you free from injury.

The following basic tools and supplies will help you plant and keep your trees and shrubs healthy. Tick off the items you think you will need for your particular planting activity.

ACTIVITY



Paper and pens for plan			Rakes		
Marking paint and flagging tape			Wheelbarrow		
Spray pack, herbicides and extra PPE needed			Tube planter		
Crowbar			Watering can		
Auger and extra PPE if motorised			Buckets		
Mattock			Hoses and fittings		
Shovel and spade			Fertiliser and mulch		
Trowel			Stakes and tree guards	