

Carry Out Natural Area Restoration Works



Learning Guide

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
1. GETTING PREPARED	2
1A. COLLECTING INFORMATION	2
1B. WORKING SAFELY	2
1C. TALK ABOUT YOUR PROJECT	5
1D. PLANNING	6
1E. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS	6
1F. UNDERGROUND SERVICES.....	6
1G. TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT	7
ASSIGNMENT 1 – PROJECT RISK ASSESSMENT	8
2. TREATING WEEDS.....	9
2A. WEED IDENTIFICATION.....	9
2B. TREATMENT METHODS.....	9
3. PREPARING SOIL.....	10
3A. EROSION CONTROL	10
3B. SEDIMENT CONTROL.....	11
3C. RIPPING	11
3D. IMPROVING SOIL.....	11
ASSIGNMENT 2 – PLAN REVEGETATION	12
4. REVEGETATION.....	13
4A. WHAT IS REVEGETATION?.....	13
4B. LETTING NATURE DO THE WORK	13
4C. PLANTING SEEDLINGS	13
4D. DIRECT SEEDING	14
5. FINISHING UP	15
5A. WATERING	15
5B. GUARDS AND FENCING.....	15
5C. SITE MAINTENANCE	15
5D. RECORD KEEPING	15
5E. CLEANING UP AND DISPOSAL OF WASTE MATERIAL ...	16
5F. TOOL AND EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	16
ASSIGNMENT 3 – CARRY OUT REVEGETATION.....	17
RESOURCES AND REFERENCES.....	18
RESOURCE 1: BASICS OF GOOD LIFTING	18
RESOURCE 2: PROJECT DIARY	19
REFERENCES.....	20

Front cover photo shows seedlings emerging on a direct seeding site.

Student name:.....

Student number:.....

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to *Carry Out Natural Area Restoration Works*. This learning guide will help you put native plants back into an area using revegetation. You might need to be able restore natural areas when doing land management work for your council, when doing ranger work or when managing your own country. Training should be completed on the job, in the field, over an extended period of time.

This ALEP learning guide refers to other ALEP learning guides and the information in them. It is expected that you will work through this learning guide over a long period of time while working on a revegetation project. During that time you are likely to work through other learning guides that cover skills needed for the project.

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

To complete this training you will need the following:

1. Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
2. Safety gear including first aid kit and water.
3. Tools and equipment for treating weeds.
4. Tools and equipment for preparing soil.
5. Tools, equipment and supplies for doing revegetation.

ASSIGNMENTS

There are three assignments you will need to complete.

Some of these assignments may go towards your final assessment.



NOTE

This learning guide focuses on a revegetation project, but the steps covered will be relevant to other projects such as landscaping and making gardens, including bush tucker and vegetable gardens.

Section	Assignment	Competent (C) Not yet competent (NYC)	Date Achieved
Getting Prepared	Assignment 1. Project Risk Assessment		
Treating Weeds	Assignment 2. Plan Revegetation		
Preparing Soil			
Revegetation	Assignment 3.		
Finishing up	Carry Out Revegetation		

1A. COLLECTING INFORMATION

Information about restoring natural areas, including revegetation, can be obtained from many sources. There are many books available (see References on page 20). Greening Australia's *The Bush Book* is an excellent resource.

There is also information online.

1. Greening Australia has lots of resources about revegetation and also runs native plant nurseries that may be able to supply plants for your project.



www.greeningaustralia.org.au

2. For information on Northern Territory plants go to the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport.



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

3. For information on Northern Territory weeds, including the *Northern Territory Weed Management Handbook*, go to the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport.



www.nretas.nt.gov.au/natural-resource-management/weeds



1B. WORKING SAFELY

There are some dangers associated with carrying out revegetation work. It is important that you be aware of the dangers so you can avoid getting injured or sick (if you are using other learning guides, read the safety sections carefully and carry out the risk assessment before you start).

A safe workplace improves job satisfaction and means everyone works better. Safety is everyone's responsibility and the law says we must all take safety seriously. Many people are hurt at work every year and this is very traumatic for workers and their families.

Know and understand your organisation's health and safety procedures.

Personal protective equipment

- Wear appropriate clothes for outdoors (at least long trousers, shirt and hat) and any other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) needed.
- Wear protective footwear at all times – good steel capped work boots are the best, sometimes you will need rubber boots.
- Wear gloves to protect your hands from injury and to avoid soil borne diseases like melioidosis.
- Wear dust masks or respirators if there is dust, soil or chemicals in the air.



Working in the field

- Never work alone – always work with other people.
- Tell someone about where you are going and check the fire, road and weather reports.
- Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained and always carry maps.
- Always carry a mobile phone, in remote locations use a satellite phone or vehicle UHF radio – check they work before you leave.
- Always carry plenty of water.

Tidy work site

- Keep your work site clean and tidy, make sure there is nothing to trip over or slip on, and store everything safely.
- Clean up long grass and old rubbish that can house snakes, spiders and other insects.

Tools and equipment

- Learn how to maintain and use hand tools correctly to avoid injury.
- Wear ear protection like ear muffs if noisy machinery is being used.
- Be very careful around electricity and make sure there are no loose cords around.
- Make sure there is a fire extinguisher handy, including have one in the vehicle.
- Only properly trained people should use motorised machinery and power tools (see the learning guide for *Maintain Properties and Structures* for more safety tips).

Chemicals

- Only properly trained people should use chemicals (see the learning guide for *Treat Weeds* for more safety tips on using herbicides).
- Follow correct procedures for storing fuel and chemicals – some things should not be stored together.

Safe lifting

- Always lift heavy objects correctly to avoid injuring your back (see Resource on page 18).

First aid

- Know where your first aid kit is stored and make sure someone has a first aid certificate.



1 – GETTING PREPARED

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

SAFETY CHECKLIST ACTIVITY



Long trousers, shirt and boots		
Waterproof clothing		
Hat (hard hat if necessary) and gloves		
Sunscreen, insect repellent and sunglasses		
Dust mask		
Respirator		
Safety vest		
PVC gloves for using chemicals		
Safety glasses		

Ear muffs		
Water		
First aid kit		
Fire extinguisher		
Traffic safety cones		
Notified others and have phone/2 way radio		
Checked weather, road and fire reports		
Permits (if required) and maps		
Compass or GPS		

1C. TALK ABOUT YOUR PROJECT

You might be interested in restoring a natural area though revegetation because:

- The native birds and animals are disappearing.
- Weeds have taken over.
- Many or all of the plants have been cleared away.
- Wrong burning of country has degraded the area.
- The area is eroded – erosion can be caused by land clearing, vehicles, roadworks, feral animals and too many stock.

Before you start planning your project make sure you have talked to all the right people. You should talk to:

- The traditional owners.
- The legal owners of the land – you might need to get a permit.
- Other people who live near the area or who are interested in it.
- People who are responsible for managing the land (eg. council or ranger group).
- People who can provide expert advice in weed management, soil conservation and revegetation techniques.

ACTIVITY

Start a **PROJECT DIARY** (see Resource 2). You should use the diary to write down anything that happens on the project and anything else you find out. You could make a booklet with project diary pages and space to put photos, maps and other records of your project.

With your group, sit down with the traditional owners of your project area and talk about the project. Write down the key points in your diary. Maybe you could use some of these questions.

Who is responsible for looking after this area?
What do people use this area for – both now and in the past?
What animals live here?
Do you think this area is healthy and why?
Have things changed here over the years? How?
What do people do to look after this area?
What can we do to make areas like this healthier?
We are thinking about bringing some of the native plants back – is this something you would like to see happen?
Is there anything else you would like to see happen here?

