

Planting guidelines for Landholders and tips for successful Community Planting days

Landcare has been promoting the adoption of good land management practices in your region for many years now. Experience tells us that successful planting projects are a result of co-operation between multiple parties including:

- Bass Coast Landcare Network (BCLN)
- All BCLN Groups
- The Landholder

These guidelines help to clarify who does what and when.

Project initiation:

BCLN will consult with you to assess the site and scope the project.

BCLN will try to secure funding for your site.

Once approved and funded the Landholder will be responsible for preparing the site including erecting of a stock proof fence, weed control and spot spraying etc.

Project scheduling:

All parties will agree to a suitable planting date(s).

BCLN, Local Landcare group and Landholder to promote the event to local community, members, family and friends.

BCLN or the Landholder will arrange the tube stock or Hiko cells (seedlings) to be delivered to the property a week or two prior to planting day. This should be done in consultation with the project officer.

Site and plant preparation (Landholder's responsibility):

At least 3-4 weeks before planting day the Landholder must spot spray the site (60-70cm spots in diameter at approx 2.5m intervals) to reduce competition for new plants.

All sites need to be weed free prior to planting that means no blackberries or thistles.

Tube stock will be delivered in trays of 50 of one species. Please keep plants watered as needed before planting. The Landholder should mix the trays into assorted species and lay out the mixed trays, evenly spaced on the planting site prior to the start of the planting day.

Hiko cells require a different preparation method. The Landholder is required to pop all plants out of the cells prior to the planting day and mix plants into buckets prior to arrival of the planting group. BCLN project officer to provide advice on how to do it.

On the day of a Community Planting

Planting:

BCLN staff or a Landcare group member will supervise the planting and provide the planting equipment required. The Landholder is required to help put out plants and equipment ready to go for volunteers. This will need to start around 1-1.5 hours before volunteers arrive, depending on the site and number of plants.

Volunteers arrive around 10am and will plant to about 12.30-1.00pm.

For insurance purposes, all volunteers are required to be listed and sign in on an attendance sheet to be provided either by the Landcare Group or BCLN staff.

It's a good idea to have some drinking water available for those who don't bring their own.

Lunch:

The Landholder provides lunch for the volunteers (usually a BBQ) at about 1. It's always difficult to predict numbers on the day. BCLN will do their best to give the Landholder an estimate of the number of people likely to turn up a few days before the planting day.

Remember to thank all the volunteers involved at the end of the day.

Many hands make light work!

Happy Planting 😊