



SEEDS & PLANTS Australia Pty Ltd

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MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES for NATIVE GRASSLAND, WETLAND & MEADOW PLANTINGS

Weed Control

Inspect entire site each week and remove all large emergent weeds especially those with seed heads or in flower. Spend remaining time removing all weeds from within a zone. 4 hours per week per 1000 square metres should be sufficient. Leave small weeds hidden beneath the foliage until they are big enough to pull or wick wipe with herbicide. Many of these small weeds will die out anyway. Weed control means seed control. Do not use mist sprayers as these leave “bare holes” throughout the landscape.

Fertilising

Spread light applications of fertilizer in Spring and Autumn. Suggested application is 1 bags (50kg) of Multigrow or 4 bags (200kg) of Dynamic Lifter per 1000 square metres. A healthy cover will smother weeds and fertile soil will ensure emergent weeds are spotted before they shed seed.

Watering

Most native species are capable of surviving on natural rainfall. “Island” beds or areas near bitumen are most likely to dry out first. Monitor these beds and water when necessary. Remaining areas should only require watering after long dry or windy periods (1 month). Plants should be regularly monitored during drought and watered if suffering. Hot, windy weather is the most dangerous for plant survival.

Mulching

Mulch once a year to reduce re-emergence of weeds, improve soil humus and increase water retention. Sloped areas require a “shredded” mulch type that will resist falling. (Wood-chipped mulch and pebbles tend to roll of slopes and are not as effective as pine flake or tub-grinder compost). Use local leaf litter or import weed free mulch from a landscaping supplier.

Replanting

The entire area should be covered in plants to create a robust sward capable of shading out weeds. Each year in Spring the site should be inspected and new plants planted into gaps.



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PLANNING GUIDELINES for VIRO-CELL & VIRO-TUBE PLANTINGS

IRRIGATION - Is there access to any water and how much?

If there is access to heaps of water then planting can occur at any time of the year. Ideally the site should be watered prior to planting to reduce transplant shock and to make weeding and digging (drilling) easier. If time allows, the job may proceed after good natural rainfall. Immediately after planting everything should be watered again

WEEDS – Which species and how many weeds present?

Weeds become a problem once they become tall and shade out desirable plants. They are also a problem when the soil becomes dry and they compete for moisture. Viro-cells will survive amongst weeds if the weeds are kept short and the soil is kept moist. In landscaped areas weeds should be hand removed or poisoned by wipe application of pure Glyphosate. In broadacre and revegetation work weeds may be controlled by mowing, grazing with livestock, spraying with herbicide or by cultivation. Pre-emergent herbicide may be used in some instances, however, is not as effective in mulched or rocky ground and should not be placed near water courses.

MULCH - To mulch or not to mulch?

Mulch and compost should be used whenever possible. “Forest Litter” mulch made from tub-grinder material and compost is arguably the best. Otherwise do not spread mulch more than 75mm deep. Fibrous or ribbony mulch is needed on sloped ground. Be aware that mulch can change soil acidity, affect nutrient uptake and inhibit light rainfall from penetrating to soil level.

SOIL MOISTURE - How moist is the soil at planting time?

If the ground is powder dry then it will need successive waterings to get full penetration. Ideally the soil should be completely moist or even muddy prior to planting.

WEATHER - Is it summery or wintry at planting time?

In many districts the soil remains moist throughout winter if there has been good autumn rains. Planting during cool weather and after good rain will generally increase survival rates.

C3 or C4 SPECIES - Are we planting summer or winter active grasses?

Summer active (C4 plant species) should be planted from late spring to early autumn. Winter active C3 plants can be planted all year round if moisture is available, although autumn, winter and spring are the best months.



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PLANTING GUIDELINES for VIRO-CELLS and VIRO-TUBES

1. Prepare site by controlling weeds and spreading mulch if required. Cultivation is only recommended on bare soil or disturbed ground. On natural ground drill planters or rip lines should be used to minimise impact on soil structure. Spread mulch no more than 75mm thick..
2. Ensure that the soil profile is saturated, i.e. moist from top soil to sub soil. Before planting irrigate if necessary, or wait for suitable rainfall.
3. Generally, warm season grasses (Themeda, Pennisetum, Bothriochloa), sedges and reeds should be planted in Spring and Summer. Cool season grasses (Poa, Austrodanthonia & Austrostipa), trees and shrubs can be planted anytime except during extended hot, dry or windy weather
4. Create holes at least 100mm deep and 25mm wide to facilitate Viro-cells. Use a drill planter, crowbar or pick. For Viro-tubes, prepare holes at least 150mm deep and 50mm wide with a drill planter or mattock. Prepare deeper holes in harsh conditions or when animals are a problem.
5. Inject at least 20ml of fertiliser emulsion into hole. Mix approximately 50gm of water storage granules (depending on brand used) with 10 litres of water and 100gm of slow release fertiliser (e.g. Osmocote or Nutricote).
6. Place Viro-cell or Viro-tube into prepared hole and ensure there is root contact with the soil and with the water crystal emulsion. The top of the Viro' should be at least 25mm underground for broad-leaf plants (e.g. trees, shrubs, daisies etc) and at least 50mm for monocots and suckering herbs such as grasses, wetland plants and lilies.
7. Water in as soon as possible after planting with the equivalent of 10mm of rainfall (i.e. 1m³ of water over every 100m² of ground). Water the next day if weather is hot and windy. Water site again in one week if there has been no natural precipitation. Plants should then be regularly monitored and watered when necessary. Much less water is required during winter and on mulched sites.
8. Control weeds on the site by mulching and replanting regularly. On a regular basis remove all tall weeds or those with flowers or seed heads.