



## CENTRAL TABLELANDS LANDCARE NURSERY

### PLANTING GUIDELINES

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How to care for your tube stock to ensure a successful planting.

When you receive your plants, please put them in an open sunny area, preferably sheltered from strong winds. Your plants have been hardened to the prevailing weather conditions by growing them in an exposed outdoor area, so please do not store them in heavy shade or in a shed prior to planting. They will need watering daily until they are planted.

On the day of planting, water them well before transporting them to the planting site, as this will make them much easier to remove from the tube.

To remove the plant from the tube, cut or break off any roots that may be protruding from the bottom of the tube. Turn the tube upside down and give the rim a sharp tap on a hard object – such as the handle of your spade or tree planter. The root ball should slide easily from the tube without breaking up. Don't squeeze the sides of the tube, as this will loosen the growing medium and cause the root ball to break up. Squeezing the tube also breaks the fine plastic mesh in the base of the tubes which means we can't reuse them. If you find that the plants do not come out of the tubes easily, try watering them again, or even soaking them briefly in a bucket of water.

We recommend that your planting site is prepared by spraying or otherwise controlling competing vegetation such as pasture grasses, followed by deep ripping to a depth of not less than 30cm. Deep ripping will allow moisture to penetrate deeply into the soil and allow rapid early root growth of your seedlings. It also makes preparing planting holes much easier! Ideally, deep ripping should be done about 6 to 12 months prior to planting and when the soil is fairly dry.

If your site does not allow deep ripping, prepare individual planting holes with a mattock, crow bar or a garden fork if the soil is fairly loose. If you use an auger to prepare planting holes, break up any glazing or compaction on the sides of the hole before installing the seedling. Spot-spraying grass and weeds several weeks prior to planting will make preparing the planting holes easier.

Place the root ball into a prepared planting hole and backfill so that the top of the root ball is covered by 1- 2cm of soil. Don't leave the top of the root ball exposed, as it will quickly dry out and the plant may die.

Water in well on the day of planting with at least 5L of water per plant – more if you can easily transport water to the planting site. This will give the plant a good initial drink and settle the soil around the roots.

In most situations you will need to place a tree guard around each seedling. Even if there are no livestock at your planting site, the guards will provide protection from browsing by hares, rabbits and kangaroos.

During their first year of establishment your plants may need watering once a month if you do not receive an effective rainfall of at least 10mm. Light showers of rain will not penetrate to the root zone of the seedling.

It is important to control competing weeds and grasses around your seedlings until they are well established. You can do this by spraying (carefully!) with herbicide or applying mulch. Competition for soil moisture from weeds and pasture grasses is a major cause of failure of new plantings.

At the end of your planting job, we would love you to return your empty tubes and tube racks to the nursery or to the Landcare office at The ELF at Orange Showground. We reuse and recycle as much material as possible to avoid waste to landfill and keep our plant growing costs as low as possible.

### Suggested plant spacings

Please note that this is a generic list – you will not be supplied with all of these species

Species	Suggested spacing	Comments
Eucalypts	7 – 15m	You can space them evenly, if you like, or plant them in clumps, leaving open areas within the planting that you can fill with shrubs and ground flora. At close spacings, eucalypts will shade the ground beneath them as they mature and provide too much competition for other plants to grow.
Acacia dealbata (Silver Wattle) Acacia leucoclada (Inland Silver Wattle)	5 – 10m	May be short lived. The original plants may die out after 10 – 15 years but this species will regenerate by suckering from the roots.
Acacia implexa (Hickory, Lightwood)	5 -10m	Large, straight-trunked wattle. Will sucker from the roots. May be interplanted between the Eucalypts, or plant in small groups. Susceptible to fungal galls on the stems as the plant ages.
Acacia melanoxylon (Blackwood)	5 – 10m	Large, bushy, long-lived wattle. May be interplanted between the Eucalypts or planted in groups.
Acacia vestita (Hairy Wattle, Weeping Boree)	4 - 5m	Forms a spreading, umbrella-shaped canopy. A very hardy coloniser species. Plant in small groups.
Acacia buxifolia (Box-leaved Wattle) Acacia verniciflua (Varnish Wattle) Davesia latifolia (Hop Bitter-pea) Dodonaea viscosa (Sticky Hopbush)	1.5 - 2m	These are all smaller shrubs. Plant in dense clumps of 10 or more plants to provide habitat for small birds.

Indigofera australis (Austral Indigo)		
Banksia marginata (Silver Banksia)	4 – 5m	This species is becoming uncommon on the Central Tablelands. Plant in a well-drained site but be prepared to water it through the first two summers after planting. Plant in groups to enhance habitat value and make follow-up maintenance easier.
Bursaria spinosa (Native Blackthorn)	3 – 4m	An open, prickly shrub, producing clusters of cream flowers which are an important food source for beneficial insects. Plant in groups in a moist location.
Hardenbergia violaceae (False Sarsaparilla)	1m	Low growing twiner producing clusters of purple pea flowers in Spring. May be planted in the same planting hole as some of the small shrubs, and it will twine over them as they grow. Could also be planted near stumps or rock outcrops to give it support. Guard well, the foliage is very palatable.
Bulbine bulbosa (Bulbine Lily) Dichopogon strictus (Chocolate Lily)	30 – 50cm	These are small, Spring flowering plants that die back to underground tubers after flowering. Plant in groups to make follow up maintenance easier. Very easily “lost” in planting sites that have vigorous pasture grasses, so provide good weed control before and after planting.
Carex appressa (Tall Sedge)	50cm – 1m	A clump-forming sedge for wet areas.
Themeda australis (Kangaroo Grass) Cymbopogon refractus (Barbed-wire Grass)	50cm – 1m	These are vigorous, summer active perennial grasses. They will eventually form large tussocks that are valuable habitat for small lizards. Kangaroo grass is palatable, so provide good protection until the plants are well established. Barbed wire grass does not appear to be palatable to native browsers such as kangaroos, but is readily browsed by livestock.