Landcare-led Landscape Resilience

Tools and data for restoration decisions

Getting shrubs back into old plantings

OBJECTIVES

Many of our older revegetation sites have been successful for trees, but the shrubs originally planted have dropped out. How do we get them back in?



KEY ISSUES

Ripping is either not possible (cant get the tractor in) or not desirable due to the damage to the tree roots
Under established trees the profile can be dry and compacted - how do we set the plantings up for success?



The hand held petrol motor auger is modified so that it does not leave smooth or compacted sides.

This demonstration site near Holbrook is an example of a planting from 2001 (see above). the trees have done well but there is very little of the original shrubs surviving

In this site we tried using a hand held auger to create a bed for planting of understorey shrubs.

The use of the auger was kindly donated by GMCEnviro and we put in approx 150 shrubs

WHY DO SHRUBS STRUGGLE?

- **No 1 reason is grazing** of the revegetation areas - even just crash grazing compromises them
- **Competition** with exotic grasses in those first years
- **Exposure** - shrubs generally grow under a canopy naturally and may not cope with the heat and dry of new reveg areas
- **Lack of regeneration** - Shrubs are generally shorter lived and rely on regeneration to keep stands going - exotic grass cover in reveg can make this difficult



A LOCAL NETWORK OF DEMONSTRATION SITES ARE BEING ESTABLISHED UTILISING 'BEST PRACTICE' RESTORATION AND REVEGETATION TECHNIQUES FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE. THIS IS SHOWCASING OF THE POSITIVE ECONOMIC, PRODUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF NATIVE VEGETATION RESTORATION, AND THE POTENTIAL FOR INCOME STREAMS FOR BUSINESS RESILIENCE.

KEY LEARNINGS FROM EXPERIENCE

- Hand augering works in some soil types, but not others - clay soils are a challenge
- Have to auger when the profile is dry - wet soils don't work
- Augering does leave a weed free area that may negate the need for weed control



COST CONSIDERATIONS

- Using a contractor with a suitable modified auger can be costly, but may be the only option and you may save on weed control

Depending on the site conditions, using an auger to plant shrubs can be an option.

www.revegetation.org.au

Australian Government | Future Drought Fund | Murrumbidgee Landcare Incorporated | Holbrook Landcare Network