Landcare-led Landscape Resilience

Tools and data for restoration decisions

Instream planting - aquatic and fringing species

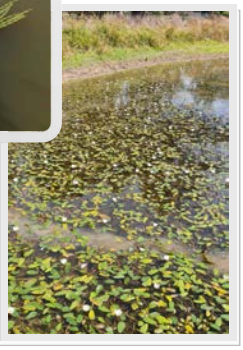
OBJECTIVES

Revegetation around waterways, dams and wetlands often concentrates on the terrestrial species - the trees and shrubs - because that's what we know and can easily source.
What about the fringing and aquatic species - the reeds and the floating water plants?

Some species re-establish readily once stock are excluded. Seed is either still there or comes in with visiting ducks and waterfowl. Aquatic plants like water ribbons, millfoils and swamp lilys are now quite rare. .These are essential habitat for many aquatic species.



Water Ribbons (*Cycnogeton procerum*)



Swamp Lily (*Ottelia ovalifolia*)

WHAT IS SUCCESS?

Re-estabishing the emergent and floating plants in wetlands and dams



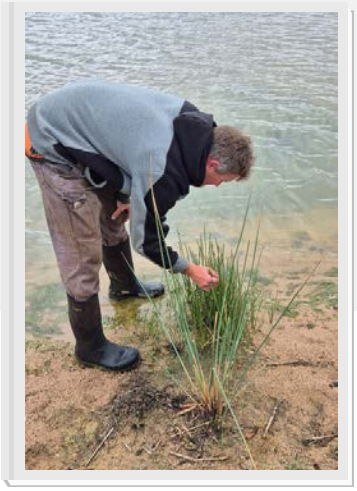
KEY STEPS

- Check the revegetation guide for the list of recommended aquatic species for your area
- Source native plants - there are specialist nurseries for wetland plants
- Harvesting seed, corms or root cuttings from natural sites can be done (but with care not to impact the values of the natural sites) and propagated yourself (see overleaf)



RECIPE FOR SUCCESS - PLANTING OUT

- Plant out in early Spring
- May need to be weighed down with rocks or pins until they establish
- May need protecting from ducks (Wire guards)
- Take note of the high and low water marks - most aquatic plants can handle some drying but check their requirements and place accordingly



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.

PROPAGATION

- Use a basic native potting mix
- Plant in a tray with no drainage
- Take cuttings, rootstock or plant the seeds in Summer/Autumn
- Grow the rootmass over Autumn and Winter in a greenhouse if you can
- Plants will die down over Winter regardless - as the weather warms up they will repsprout and start growing again
- In wetland areas, taking a small amount of soil or mud and putting over the potting mix tray can also result in plants germinating

COST CONSIDERATIONS

Aquatic plants from the nursery can cost a little more than the usual tubestock, but the numbers you need are less - its not a mass planting technique

Instream vegetation has a range of functions essential for maintaining the health of waterways

www.revegetation.org.au

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