

# Guidelines



## Planting tube-stock

G-7.2

Allowing and encouraging natural regeneration is the best method for rehabilitating coastal vegetation. Other techniques such as direct seeding and laying of seed-laden brush may be more suitable in some situations. Planting tube-stock is a reliable planting method if undertaken correctly. Follow these specific techniques to ensure the best possible success for tube-stock plantings.

*Use these guidelines in conjunction with the information provided in Chapter 7 when planning works and engaging consultants and contractors to ensure the proposed works use the most effective methods and minimise the risk of causing damage to coastal values.*

### Technique

Select plants that are suitable for the site and conditions and use local species.

Source tube-stock from a reputable nursery or grower or ideally propagate from local seed stock.

Space plants as follows: trees 1–3m apart, shrubs 1–2m apart, grasses/groundcovers 2–3 per square metre, as a general rule of thumb.

Water seedlings well a few hours before planting.

Scrape any loose sand from the ground surface until moist sand or soil is reached. Use a sturdy trowel or spade to form a hole in the moist soil (or dig a hole slightly deeper and twice as wide as the tube, in less sandy soils).

If the sand is at all dry, water the hole with 1–3 litres of water and allow the water to drain away.

In pure sand, placing a handful of composted sterile mulch at the bottom of the planting hole is beneficial.

Fertiliser is not necessary, and may encourage the growth of weeds that will out-compete the native plants.

If any roots are growing out of the container, trim them (and cut some leaves off) before removing the plant.

Do not pull the plant out by the stem. Support the stem by holding it between your fingers, turn the container upside down and squeeze gently. If necessary, tap the edge sharply on a spade handle.

Carefully slide the plant out with its root mass and soil resting in the palm of your hand.

Loosen the roots at the base (and where roots have become coiled in the shape of the pot).

Slide the plant into the hole so that the soil from the container is slightly below ground level.

Press the soil firmly around the base of the seedling, leaving a slight hollow about 300mm in diameter to trap water.

If the soil is dry, gently water the plant with at least one litre of water.

Replace any surface mulch, or add a light mulch of brush, dead leaves or seed-free weeds. Native plants (e.g. she-oaks, acacias, banksias) generally use soil bacteria and fungi to obtain minerals.

If possible, supply this soil life by applying a mulch of leaves or a little soil from around healthy specimens of the same species growing nearby.

Do not stake the plants, as it will produce weak plants susceptible to wind damage.

Plastic tree guards protect young plants from competition from weeds, browsing, trampling and wind, but use only where vandalism is unlikely and on stable sites. (Tree guards can increase wind erosion on shifting sands, or end up being blown into waterways.)

### Weed and disease hygiene

Weeds or diseases can be spread from an infested area to an unaffected area on vehicles, machinery, boots and other tools.

Practice good hygiene and ensure that you use a reputable nursery. Phytophthora root rot (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) can be found in some nursery stock and mulches.

### Monitoring

Keep a record of the number of plants of each species that are planted out, and map where they are planted.

Inspection and maintenance should become part of a regular maintenance program and should check:

- which areas have revegetated successfully (mark this on a vegetation map)
- establish photopoints and take regular photos
- the number of plants that have survived
- particular species or locations where plants have not survived
- whether there are any new weed invasions
- what works are required and when, including weed control, feral animal control (particularly rabbits) and replacing planting losses

### More Information

*Tasmanian coastal works manual*: Chapter 7, Page & Thorp 2010

*Tasmanian washdown guidelines for weed and disease control*, Rudman et al. 2004

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