

# What's unique about local plants?

## HANDY HINT

The best time for direct seeding in the Leigh Catchment is Spring.

## what are local plants?

Local plants are plants that naturally grow in our area and have done since before settlement. Local plants have numerous environmental benefits and also require less water, fertiliser, pest and disease treatments.

Less time and money is needed for their health and survival.

## why are local plants so important?

When revegetating, it is important to select plants of local provenance. Provenance is a term used to describe the exact geographic origin of a plant or seed. Plants of a particular provenance have adapted to specific local conditions over many thousands of years, leading to the evolution of local varieties of a species.

Selecting plants of local provenance is also important to protect the genetic diversity which exists amongst different plant communities.

When planting, it is important to create a vegetation stand comprising trees, shrubs and grasses. This will increase the plantings resistance to disease and attacks by insects. This will also promote greater biodiversity.

## the benefits of local plants

The many benefits of using local plants in revegetation projects include:

- lower maintenance and inputs (eg. water) due to adaptation to local conditions
- suitable habitat for local wildlife
- improved biodiversity (eg. increased bird life)
- habitat for insect and bird predators which can reduce the need for pesticides
- higher survival rates from direct seeding and plantings
- improved water quality
- wind protection for stock
- improved erosion control
- aesthetic qualities

## how can I grow more local plants?

Re-introducing local plants is done by direct seeding, or planting tubestock which has been grown from locally collected seed. Whichever method is used, it is important that a full mix of species, from trees down to grasses, is used. To maximise success, use the most robust species.

Landcare Officers can provide advice on the best preparation, planting and maintenance techniques specific to your property.

### Leigh Catchment Group

The Leigh Catchment Group is made up of nine Landcare groups within the Leigh Catchment, which lies south of Ballarat towards Geelong.

As a Landcare network, the Group encourages working together to achieve sustainable ecosystems, agriculture and communities.

If you would like to become involved in Landcare with the Leigh Catchment you can contact us on (03) 5341 2364 or email [leighcg@ncable.net.au](mailto:leighcg@ncable.net.au)



Leigh Catchment Group



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