

Site Revegetation - 1

This fact sheet has been prepared to help people engaged in the revegetation of work sites after capital works programs are completed. This includes sites which had been disturbed after the installation of pipe lines, tank sites and any other sites on sloping ground which have been compacted or disturbed during the installation process.

M.W.Last *
February 02

1. Disturbed Sites



A major part of the disturbance caused at work sites is due to vehicles and machinery moving about on the soil surface. Roads are required to access work sites and areas of land are required for operating machinery, storing materials etc. Although these land areas can be minimised, they are a necessary part of a capital works project.

The access road in the right of the picture was required to install a pipe line to the two tanks on the hill [top centre]. Once the project was completed, this road was no longer required. The compacted surface which remained, will shed storm water causing gully erosion down the slope.

2. Repairing Disturbed Sites



To improve the situation in the above picture, the compacted surface needs to be repaired so it can collect and absorb storm water before it causes erosion.

The easiest way to repair these compacted surfaces is to install mounds like the one in this picture. All storm water which drains off the compacted surface to the right of the picture is collected in the mound in the centre left of the picture. In the case of the above picture, mounds should be constructed across the road approximately ten metres apart down the slope.

These mounds are built along the contour and can be constructed by using the bucket on a back hoe to push up the mound or by carting in soil and forming the mound. Compacted surfaces on slopes should be scarified along the contour, so the fresh soil will lock into the soil surface. Ripping the compacted surface is not an effective solution for repairing disturbed sites. Mounds need to be constructed. Do not rip down or up the slope.

* Acknowledgement: This fact sheet has been generated from information collected on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Lands.

3. Sowing Seed



Once the mound system has been installed, seed needs to be sown into the mound. This can be done when the soil in the mound is soft so the seed is caught in the soil surface. After planting the seed, the mounds need to be rolled with the wheels of the tractor or motor vehicle. This will make the mounds firm, reducing the chance of them being washed away by heavy rain.

The type of vegetation at each construction site needs to be recorded and seed of the same types need to be planted. Many sites on the AP Lands support healthy stands of Acacia and Senna trees and shrubs. These species usually produce seed in October and November depending on seasonal conditions.

Project Managers in consultation with Land Management personnel can plan ahead and arrange for seed to be collected from areas where capital works programs are to be installed.

If seed is not available, mound systems should still be installed because they will collect air borne seed and storm water, allowing the process of revegetation to proceed.

4. Collecting Seed



Seed collection is not a difficult task. As in the photograph, a pair of gloves and a collecting bag is all that is required to collect large volumes of Acacia, Senna and Eucalypt seed.

Once the seed pods have been collected, they need to be laid out on a clean shed floor or the tray back of a truck to dry. Leave the material on the floor for a few days allowing all bugs, ants etc. that have been collected to crawl away.

In the case of Acacia and Senna seed pods, the seed is easily removed from the pods by walking on them with joggers many times. A large percentage of seed becomes detached from the pods and can be easily separated from the trash. Both the seed and the trash should be saved and stored in plastic bins. The trash still contains some seed and can be spread inside the mounds.

The fruit collected from Eucalypts should be placed in a clean, well aired place to dry until the seed is expelled. Collect the seed and store