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ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING
AUSTRALIAN PLANTS

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NEWSLETTER
NATIVE PLANT REGENERATION
STUDY GROUP

APRIL 1ST 1996

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 4

CONTENTS

Seed collection series

financing for next year

Editorial

Welcome to the forth newsletter of the Native Plant Regeneration Newsletter. Well I thank all those who returned the questionnaire At the end of this newsletter is a couple more question just to see if I am on the right track with some of your comments you had made perviously. Well for questionnaire I had staggering 85% response. So if you fit in the last 15% either your happy or unhappy with the current newsletter so if you fall in to the latter category please send in the questionnaire it the only way that I can improve the service provide by the study group.

Financing

A balance sheet is attached to me it doesn't look heathy at all especially since I have not include the cost of this newsletter. The major expense have been postage at a \$1.10 per newsletter and copying at 10 cents a page. According to Australia post a 45 cent postage stamp doesn't cover a bulky 8 page newsletter. I'm predicting next year I will do 3 newsletters at 20 pages so the cost will be \$9.50. Yes it is bigger but this is what will cover me for costs. If I meant to deliver the quality that you want then this is the price tag. I am open to suggestions on how to cut costs.

So please send in member subscription for the next financial year.

Financial Statement for the Native Plant Regeneration Study Group

	DEPOSITS	COSTS	Total depo	total cost	balance
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		16.6	163.6	100.35	63.25
XXXXXXX XXXXXXXX		5			
XXXXXX XXXXXXXX		4			
XXXXX XXXXXX		5			
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XXXXX XXXXX Post Box		16.6			
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XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX Postage		49.5			
XXXXXX XXXXXXXX Postage		11.25			
XXXXX XXXXX Photocopying		18			
XXXX XXXX		4			
XXX XXX		5			
XX XX		5			

Cost of Newsletters 1 & 2 were paid for by my self with no pay back. Along with those 45c stamp for the Questionnaire. The Post Box & Post Box Key were paid for by my self. Which I will do again next year

X's denote names hidden for privacy

Final Questionnaire

Please circle or give a printed explanation where appropriate

1. Did you find that the newsletter contain information relevant for you?

Yes

No

2. Do think having series of information a single topic is a good idea?

Yes

No

2a. What where your reasons for the above answer

3. Do you think the increase in the newsletter is reasonable if the cost of producing the newsletter is so high?

Yes

No

3a. What where your reasons for giving this answer?

NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will continue to on the seed collection **thame** but will also look at weed and pest control with some member input.

If want to contribute to the newsletter the

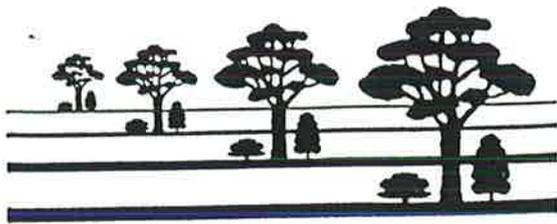
postal address is :

P.O BOX 2089
NORMANVILLE
SA 5204

Deadline for the next Newsletter is the 30/6/96 and hopefully you should have it in the post box by late July!

Bye for Now

Matt Pearson



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Collecting native plant seed

Compiled by the Native Vegetation Management Branch, Department of Environment and Land Management and Anne McMahon

Collecting native plant seed can be an enjoyable part of your revegetation or bushland management programs.

This fact sheet is a guide to seed collecting and where to find additional information.

Collecting fruits

Australian native plants bear fruit containing seed that should be collected from the same or similar micro-environment as close as possible to the intended planting site. It can be counter-productive to buy seed or collect away from your district if the species spans a wide range of habitats.

Fruits should be taken from at least five different plants that are widely spaced in the population. Plants close together are more likely to have developed from seed of the same maternal parent and are therefore genetically similar.

Fruits should be taken only from healthy plants that have the desired features, such as a long straight trunk, bushy canopy, branching near the ground, leaf or flower colour. All collections should be labelled with the name of the species, and the locality and date of the collection.

For unknown species keep a sample of buds, fruits, leaves and description of the plant for positive identification.

Seeds are usually collected during spring and summer. For those species that retain their mature fruits, the timing of collecting is not critical. However, some species retain their mature fruits for only a few days. These species should be checked every couple of days as the fruit nears maturity.

Seeds are borne in fruit which vary considerably in size and form between native plants. Collecting techniques and subsequent handling depend on the nature of the fruit.

Collect only as much seed as is required while keeping damage to the plants to a minimum. Cut fruits only or

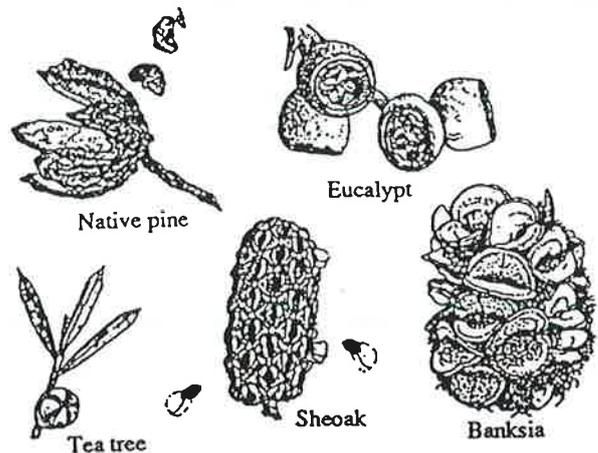
branchlets laden with fruit as close to fruits as practicable with a sharp implement to produce a clean cut. Remove no more than 20 per cent of the fruit from any one tree, or 1 per cent of the tree bulk.

Woody fruit

Woody fruit (for example eucalypts, tea-tree, sheoak, native pines and banksias) are usually ready to pick when they have changed colour from green to brown. Woody fruits do remain unopened on most plant species for several seasons, and the seed is released only when the fruits are removed and dried or when the fruit is damaged by fire.

Always check that the fruit is fully developed and ripe before removal by comparing it in size to other older fruits and ensure the valves are clear, distinct and closed. Cut the fruit open and expose the fertile seed which will be tan, red, brown or black.

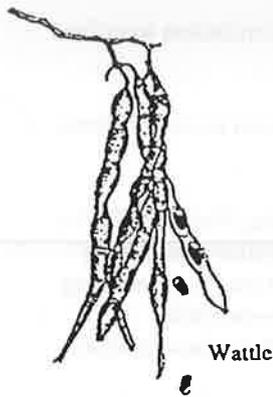
Larger fruit are removed individually from the branches, while smaller fruit are collected by cutting sections of branches from the tree. Take care to remove the bulk of the branches and leaves before drying the fruit. Large quantities of branches can be transported to a site for drying in trucks or open trailers. Small quantities of material are carried in open tubs or large paper bags. Plastic bags should not be used because collected material sweats in the bag and can quickly go mouldy.



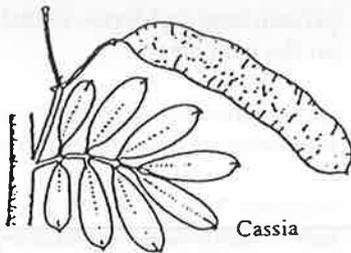
Pods

The pods (for example from wattles, cassia, parrot bush) are ready for collecting when they change colour from green to brown and are dry and brittle. Pods of some species burst open when dry and discard seeds away from the plant, and these pods need to be collected just as they change colour. Pods can be picked individually or in handfuls, depending on the species, and placed in an appropriate container. Seed should not be collected from the ground because it is likely to be infected with fungi which can reduce the viability of the seed.

Extract the seed from pods by crushing the pods by hand, under feet or by placing them in a modified garden mulcher or machine thrasher.



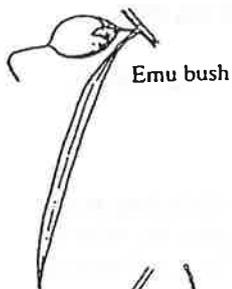
Wattle



Cassia

Fleshy fruit

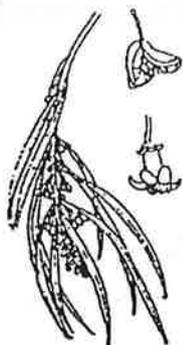
Fleshy fruit (for example quandong, native apricot, emu bush) are ripe and ready for picking when the flesh changes colour from green to orange-red or brown. The fruit are picked by hand and the leathery flesh is removed before storing. The flesh of the quandong is readily removed because it is firm and does not adhere to the kernel. However, other fleshy fruit may need to be crushed, washed and air-dried on open trays, or soaked in water, before the flesh can be removed.



Emu bush



Quandong

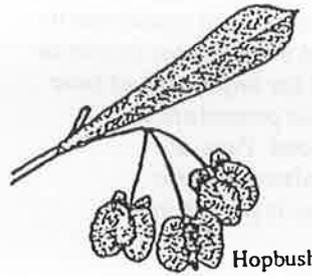


Native apricot

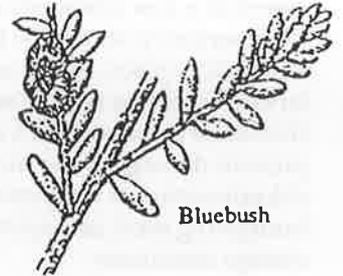
Winged fruit

Winged fruit (for example bluebushes, hopbushes) are mature when the wings are papery or even brittle. Some winged fruit change colour as they mature. However, before collecting the fruit, break one open to check that the seed inside is fully developed.

Fruit can be collected by dragging the hand along the branch and pulling the fruit into a paper bag or bucket, or letting them fall on a drop sheet.



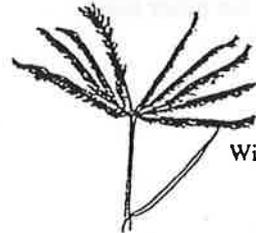
Hopbush



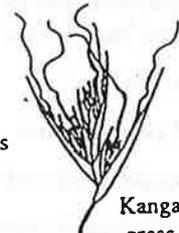
Bluebush

Grass heads

Grass seed (for example from native grasses, sedges) can be difficult to collect if the heads shatter readily. The heads should be collected as soon as the first seeds are mature. The seed can be collected by cutting the grass like hay while the heads are still intact.



Windmill grass



Kangaroo grass

Seed extraction

Fruit or fruit-laden branches should be spread out on a sheet of canvas or kept in open containers to dry. The fruit must be well ventilated or turned regularly to prevent it sweating and going mouldy.

Do not allow weed seeds or seeds or fruit to mix with collected material.

Some woody fruit, such as from eucalypts and tea-tree, will open within a week to release the seed. Others, such as from native pine and sheoaks, can take three or more weeks to open. As the material dries it is common to find many insects crawling about among the seed. To avoid infestation, quickly sieve and package the seed with an appropriate insecticide.

When drying fruit of species with small leaves, it is advisable to remove as much of the foliage as possible before drying the fruit. If the leaves readily break off from the branches as they dry, the pieces can be difficult to sieve out.

Winged fruit and pods need to be lightly crushed or rubbed to release the seed which is then separated from the fruit by sieving or winnowing.

Banksia seed can be extracted by carefully singeing the fruit in a small fire, which opens the valves releasing the seed.

Seed cleaning

Remove all fragments of twigs and leaves. The seed should be perfectly dry before being stored.

Seed storage

Place each seed lot in a separate container, labelled with the species name, locality and date of collection. Viability is maximised when seed is kept dry and stored at a low temperature. If seed is to be stored for long periods it should be kept in airtight containers in a cool dark place. Check seed at intervals for insects or larvae. Seed that is to be stored for any length of time should be fumigated as a routine procedure to prevent damage to the stored seed. Para-dichlorobenzene or magnesite is often used for fumigating seed, or naphthalene is placed in the storage containers.

Tools and equipment

Tools and equipment, especially designed for fruit collection and seed extraction, make collecting native plant seed a safe and enjoyable past-time. The tools are inexpensive and can be used for other tasks around the home. You will need:

- secateurs
- hand pruning saw
- telescopic pole and cutter
- metal or plastic sieves
- canvas sheet
- safety glasses and gloves
- paper bags, hessian bags, buckets or boxes.

Care for our environment

- When arriving at a collection site, the collectors are, if possible, to make themselves known to the appropriate authority, show the permit or letter of authority and make a courtesy call upon completion of the collection activity.
- Nesting sites, all tree hollows, and other animal habitats must be left undisturbed. Collectors shall at all times be wary and take proper care to avoid trampling any understorey plants (including grasses, herbs and small shrubs).
- Do not leave harvested material in an unsightly manner and take precautions when using vehicles in dry grass during the fire danger season.
- Take precautions not to spread weed seeds from one area to another by vehicles, people and animals. Please check tyres, shoes, socks, clothing and dog coats for seeds. Some landowners may not permit vehicles to travel across their properties.

- Take precautions when using vehicles to minimise track damage, especially under wet conditions. Gates must be left as found and any damage must be reported immediately to the landowner. At all times, care must be taken so as not to unduly frighten or disturb any livestock.

Consent to collect seed

Under the Native Vegetation Act 1991 legal consent to collect seed of native plant species is not required except where the species is prescribed in Part II of Schedules 7-9 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972. Consent to collect these species must be obtained from the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Permission must also be obtained to collect seed in the following circumstances:

- private land-holders—verbal permission to collect on the property;
- local councils—written permission to collect from roadsides or council reserves;
- National Trust of South Australia, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Primary Industries, South Australia, Forestry, Department and Engineering and Water Supply Department—written permission to enter and collect from land owned by any of these agencies;
- heritage agreement areas—written permission from the landowner and the Minister for Environment and Land Management.

Further information

For further advice contact:

- Native Vegetation Management Branch, Department of Environment and Land Management, GPO Box 667, Adelaide SA 5001. Telephone (08) 216 7926.
- State Tree Centre, GPO Box 1671, Adelaide SA 5001. Telephone (08) 207 8767.

This fact sheet is based on chapter 3: *Collecting seed of growing trees for farms, parks and roadsides*, by Julianne Venning (Lothian, 1988), and *Trees For Life Training program for seed collectors*.