



# Landscape Restoration Equipment

## Loan Agreement

The Northern Tablelands Local Land Services (LLS) has a range of equipment available for loan to landholders and community members. The equipment was purchased to encourage activities and projects aimed at enhancing the quality of vegetation and biodiversity across the Northern Tablelands.

There is no cost associated with the borrowing of this equipment. The borrower is required to complete a loan agreement form and the Northern Tablelands LLS simply asks that equipment is returned in the same state that it was borrowed. It is essential that all equipment is cleaned thoroughly before return to minimise the spread of weeds from one property to the next.

## Biodiversity Benefits

Increasing biodiversity levels improves the availability of naturally occurring ecosystem services.

Ecosystem services are the benefits to sustaining life and production provided from processes that occur naturally in the environment.

## Booking of Equipment

People interested in borrowing any equipment are urged to contact the Northern Tablelands LLS well in advance of when the equipment is needed. Items such as the Ripper / Moulder and the Grass Seed Harvester become very popular at certain times of the year. Avoid disappointment by making a booking as soon as possible through the Northern Tablelands LLS Inverell Office on 02 6728 8020.

## Landscape Restoration Equipment

### Ripper/Moulder

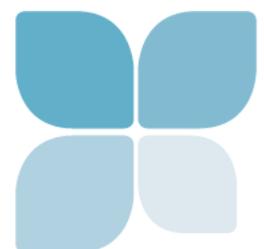
When planting tubestock, preparation is everything! Produce tree beds to increase your strike-rate and make planting easier and more efficient.

Transported on a dual axle trailer, the Ripper/ Moulder prepares tree beds to improve the for the planting of tubestock. The unit operates via a standard 3-point linkage. A minimum 50 horse power tractor is recommended for operation. The unit can rip to depths suitable for tree planting and pipe laying. Mounding discs turn and aerate the soil allowing moisture and oxygen to penetrate deep into the bed.



Before booking, time should be taken to check the proposed work site/s to see what soil types are present. Ripping and mounding can be damaging to certain soil types during certain times of the year. Some soil types may be better suited to other planting methods.

We recommend that the Ripper / Moulder should be used in conjunction with Potti-Putkis to make tree planting projects quick and easy.



## Potti-Putkis

The name may be unusual but its use is practical. Save yourself precious time and effort.

The design of this tubestock planter saves enormous time and back strain. The operator can carry two trays of tubestock on a planting belt allowing them to plant up to 40 tubestock in one pass. A Potti-Putki inserts the tube seedlings into a prepared tree bed with four simple motions.

- Push the beak of the instrument into the soil to the required depth,
- press the foot lever down,
- drop the tube stock in and
- lift the potti-putki out of the soil.

Lightly step soil in and around the tubestock before moving onto your next site. How easy!!



## Water Trailer

Don't let your efforts go to waste! The time and effort to prepare tree beds and plant seedlings can be all undone if plants don't get water.

Our water trailer has a 1000L capacity and can be towed by a standard vehicle or tractor. The trailer has been constructed with rough terrain in mind. Large 4WD tyres, heavy duty springs and a raised frame give the trailer good clearance to negotiate uneven surfaces. Two hand nozzles run off 15m hoses with pressure being provided by 5.5 horse power 4 stroke engine. The pump has the capacity to reverse its flow, making it easy to draw water from wells, rivers or dams.

When preparing tree beds, it is a good idea to leave adequate space for a vehicle and the water trailer to pass between rows (refer to previous picture). This will save the operator/s time and effort when watering.

## Burford Tree Seeder

Interested in producing tree corridors or wind breaks?

The Burford Tree Seeder prepares the soil and sows in the one pass. The tree seeder is adjustable and accommodates a wide range of sowing conditions, soil and seed types. The plough disc breaks the surface of the soil making it easier for the single tyre to deliver the seed at a desirable depth. The machine can be used to sow seeds for both native tree and shrub species with minimal site preparation. The tree seeder is designed to be pulled by low range 4WD. Spraying of the work site prior to sowing is recommended to minimise competition.



## Grass Seed Harvester

*Interested in increasing the native pastures on your property?*

The Grass Seed Harvester is designed to be towed by a 4WD at an off-set angle to maximise the harvest of native grass seeds. Two vacuum units powered by a 4 stroke engine draw seed into collection bins. A rotating 'beater / brush' mounted inside the head unit helps to dislodge seed from the grass stem. Harvested seed can then be broadcast into areas for pasture improvement.



### Tips for Harvesting

The time of harvest is critical. Best results will be achieved on areas that have ripened uniformly. Most native grasses will ripen and be ready for harvest 20 to 30 days after flowering, but some may reach this stage earlier (e.g. wheat grass). While it is important for the seed head to be attached, premature harvesting while the seed head is still 'doughy' will most likely result in a poor yield. The timing of harvesting should always be aimed at collecting the maximum number of mature seeds. We recommend researching the target species in advance and monitoring the seed head maturity to ensure the best time for harvest.



## Danthonia Debut for Reaper

The custom-designed and built native grass seed harvester, known as "the Rosevale Reaper", has given its first outstanding performance in the paddock. The state-of-the-art unit, owned by the Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA, has been harvesting *Austrodanthonia* grass (Wallaby Grass or White Top) on the property 'Danthonia' about 25km east of Inverell.

'Danthonia' Property Manager, Johannes Meier, has been working with the Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA for a number of years to establish pastures and plant trees.

"The CMA has enabled us to realise our plans for restoring our property and operating it sustainably. Providing the native grass seed harvester to farmers is a great way of valueadding to the projects that we have already undertaken with the CMA," Johannes Meier said.

Wallaby grass is a valuable native pasture as it grows all year round. It is sensitive to heavy stocking so performs best under a rotational grazing regime. Johannes Meier will be resowing the *Austrodanthonia* that he has harvested where native pastures are a bit patchy and will be fertilising the pastures with compost.

The native grass seed harvester was commissioned by the Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA because there was a call for the establishment or re-establishment of native grasses in the catchment but little native grass seed was available. The machine is very user-friendly and is built on a trailer that can simply be towed by a ute with a tow-bar.

When harvesting it is best to travel through the native grasses using the brushes at the front of the unit to knock all the ripe seeds off the plants. It is then recommended that the operator do a second pass with the beaters rotating at the front of the machine to remove more strongly attached (less ripe) seed. Any seed that the unit is able to harvest should successfully resow.

The machine will harvest nearly all native grass species including blue grass, kangaroo grass, native sorghum, Mitchell grass, slender panic, spring grass and of course, wallaby grass. It is available to all landholders in the catchment. A representative from the Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA will come out to your property to show you how to use the harvester.

Article taken from the Inverell Times 26th March 2010:

(Note: The Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA is no longer functioning. Please contact the Northern Tablelands LLS for more details about the Grass Seed Harvester)

# Feral Animal Management Equipment

## Trail Cameras

*Got a feral population? Want to know more about the numbers you're dealing with? Where are the best places to set up traps and ambush sites?*

The presence of feral species can cost landholders dearly and have a detrimental impact on native biodiversity. Knowing the habits of these animals can make it easier to control them.

Operating off AA batteries, these cameras can be strategically positioned to capture images of wildlife both day and night. New illuminator technology provides clear night time infrared images, while a time-lapse plot camera mode provides full colour images during daylight hours. Cameras can be set up to automatically transfer between night and day modes, and can also be set to capture either stills or video footage.

Each camera comes with a camouflage metal security box and security cable. Images are stored on an 8Gb SD card. Data from the card can be displayed and uploaded to PC via an SD card reader (both the card and reader are provided as part of the loan equipment).



## Feral Animal Traps

The impacts of invasive animal species on the Northern Tablelands can be managed if a number of control methods are integrated and those methods are implemented in coordination with neighbours.

The Northern Tablelands Local Land Services invasive species experts can help you design your pest animal control program and provide access to baits and traps. Traps are designed for specific species, and when used to supplement a coordinated baiting program, are a very successful means of controlling feral animal populations.

We have wild dog, fox and pig traps available for loan. Talk to the Biosecurity Team about planned baiting programs, courses to gain accreditation for access to bait products, and pre-feeding programs to increase your chances of success.

Photos: Trail camera gear (top-left); fox trap (top-right); pig trap (below-left).

### MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information about how to enhance and improve biodiversity or if you are interested in borrowing the equipment, contact us on

**02 6728 8020**

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