

Introduction

Our remaining patches of native vegetation have important roles to play for our health and wellbeing, our communities, and farm productivity. Native vegetation provides soil stabilisation, protection from salinity, recharge control, and provides habitat for pest controlling insects, birds and mammals, as well as having aesthetic value. Intact native vegetation is important for maintaining biological functions and the natural cycling of nutrients, minerals, energy and water. In general, our native vegetation has been greatly disturbed. Therefore, active management is required to ensure its long-term survival and the conservation of native ecosystems and ecological functions critical to agriculture.

This resource kit is a collection of information about managing native vegetation. It is designed to assist extension officers in providing guidance to landholders about managing their remaining native vegetation. The details are focussed on the North East region of Victoria, but the principles can be applied to a wide range of native vegetation environments. It does not hold all the answers. While some approaches may apply to a range of situations, appropriateness of management techniques for different sites largely depends on the **type** and **quality** of the native vegetation in question, and the impacts operating at the site.

Part One of this kit is a selection of information notes which deal with vegetation type identification, vegetation quality assessment and basic management techniques for remnant native vegetation.

Part Two of this kit is part of the Living Systems Resource Kit. The Living Systems Resource Kit investigates all aspects of how native biodiversity does and could make a positive contribution to Victorian agriculture, to farm families and rural communities. For the first time, materials to explain native biodiversity in all its facets, have been compiled for farmers. This Kit is based on the value systems and drivers that underpin rural cultures and decision-making. The section included here is a selection of handouts with basic information and facts about native biodiversity and agriculture.

Part Three consists of 18 Ecological Vegetation Class cards. Each card describes an Ecological Vegetation Class which occurs in the North East Region. The current threatening processes are listed, significant species that occur in the vegetation type are listed, as well as some broad tips on managing that vegetation type. Vegetation types in the alpine region and wet forests are not included.

Part Four is a resource directory. It is a list of published practical information leaflets relevant to land management issues. They include leaflets from other states with information that is relevant to land management in Victoria. Books are not listed - the focus is on practical notes, which can be accessed for low cost.

This kit is ring bound to enable officers to add their favorite information notes and regularly used forms, etc. Where appropriate, the information notes in this kit may be handed out to landholders. Ten copies of each of the Ecological Vegetation Class cards are provided at the back of the kit and a compact disk is provided, containing all the files which can be printed out as required. The files are in PDF format.

It is hoped that extension officers, and others, find this kit useful in their work. If anyone has any suggestions or possible additions, please contact Mary Titcumb at the Wodonga NRE office.

Contents

Acknowledgements	i
Introduction	iii
Part One	1
Native Vegetation	3
What Sort of Vegetation Do You Have?	5
Ecological Vegetation Class Map for North East	17
Assessing the Health or Quality of Your Patch	21
Site Assessment For Remnant Vegetation Quality	25
Recommended Management Actions	27
Managing Your Patch of Bush	29
Guide to Planting Densities	33
Part Two Living Systems Project Fact Sheets	35
Introduction to The Living Systems Resource Kit	37
Defining Biodiversity	39
Ecological Sustainability	41
Biodiversity Quotes	43
Benefits of Biodiversity - Summary	45
Benefits of Biodiversity - Economic (meat industry)	47
Benefits of Biodiversity - Economic (wool industry)	49
Benefits of Biodiversity - Economic (dairy industry)	51
Benefits of Biodiversity - Economic (grain industry)	53
Benefits of Biodiversity - Economic (horticultural industry)	55
Benefits of Biodiversity - Economic (general)	57
Benefits of Biodiversity - Contribution of Native Fauna to Pest Control	59
Benefits of Biodiversity - Ecosystem Services	61
Ranking and Identifying Ecosystem Services	63
Biodiversity and Future Opportunities for Farm Incomes	65
A New Way of Thinking About Wildlife Damage	69
Australia's Biodiversity	71
Victoria's Biodiversity	73
Part Three	
Ecological Vegetation Class Cards for North East Catchment Management Area	75
Floodplain Riparian Woodland	77
Riverine Grassy Woodland / Riverine Sedgely Forest	79
Creekline Grassy Woodland	81
Riparian Forest	83
Riparian Shrubland	85
Swampy Riparian Woodland	87