

RMIT Seed Production Area

Introduction

Seed production areas (or seed orchards) are a cost-effective way of increasing the extent and diversity of revegetation without compromising the integrity of remnant vegetation through over-collection.

The RMIT seed production area provides a reliable source of understorey and ground flora species to increase the availability of high quality indigenous seed in the Glenelg Hopkins CMA area.

Location



The site is located at RMIT Hamilton, which is in sub-catchment G13. Access is via Ballarat Road on the Ballarat side of Hamilton.

Vicroads Map 73B5.

Background

Financial assistance from a Handbury Fellowship enabled Greening Australia to establish the site. The Fellowships are provided to community members or community groups who have an idea that they think will benefit the local community. Further information on the Handbury Fellowship Program can be obtained from RMIT Hamilton (03) 5572 0500.

Site Aims and Discussion

Large increases in revegetation programs in recent years and the recognition of the importance of re-establishing indigenous vegetation put ever-increasing demands on native seed supply. Seed production areas are a vital way of addressing this issue.

Current revegetation programs lack a large number of important species either because the seed is too expensive because it is so difficult to collect, or there are so few remnants remaining to collect from.

The high visual profile and easy accessibility makes the site ideal for seed production. The site was sprayed and heavily mulched with 15-20 cm of shredded pine. Seed of more than 20 understorey and ground flora species was collected during the summer of 2002-03 and grown in local nurseries.



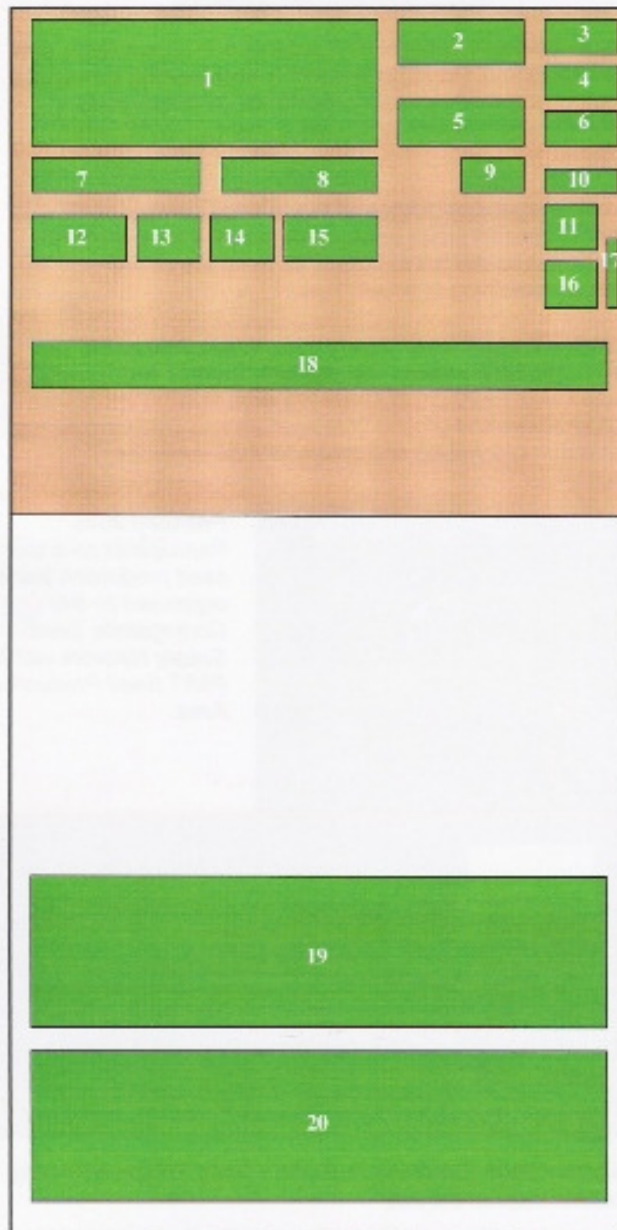
February 2005. Participants on a tour of seed production areas organised by the Corangamite Seed Supply Network visit the RMIT Seed Production Area.



February 2005. Greening Australia's Doug Phillips collecting Dianella seed at the site.

The Regional Exemplar series is presented as part of the Glenelg Hopkins Technical Vegetation Assistance Program managed by Greening Australia under contract to the Glenelg Hopkins CMA. The Natural Heritage Trust provide funding support for this program.

RMIT Seed Production Area Plan



Legend

1	Smooth Flax Lily	<i>Dianella longifolia</i>
2	Lamb Tails	<i>Ptilotus exaltus</i>
3	Velvet Tussock-grass	<i>Poa rodwayi</i>
4	Feather-tails	<i>Ptilotus macrocephalus</i>
5	Pussy-tails	<i>Ptilotus spathulata</i>
6	Prick Foot	<i>Eryngium vesiculosum</i>
7	Blue Devil	<i>Eryngium ovinum</i>
8	Chocolate Lily	<i>Dichopogon strictus</i>
9	Yam Daisy	<i>Microseris lanceolata</i>
10	Milky Beauty Heads	<i>Calocephalus lacteus</i>
11	Trailing Hop-bush	<i>Dodoneae procumbens</i>
12	Running Postman	<i>Kennedia prostrata</i>
13	Common Everlasting	<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>
14	Spur Velleia	<i>Velleia paradoxa</i>
15	Billy Buttons	<i>Craspedia glauca</i>
16	Trailing Hop-bush	<i>Dodoneae procumbens</i>
17	Nodding Saltbush	<i>Einadia nutans</i>
18	Rigid Bush-pea	<i>Pultenea stricta</i>
19	Silver Banksia	<i>Banksia marginata</i>
20	Sweet Bursaria	<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>

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