

**NATIVE
TREES & SHRUBS
RECOMMENDED
FOR
CREEKBANK
PLANTING**

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Creek bank planting guidelines and hints

Vegetation along creeks has many important functions. It **BINDS** and **HOLDS THE BANKS TOGETHER** and **REDUCES THE VELOCITY** of water which would otherwise eat away unprotected banks.

Creek bank vegetation has other values too.

Vegetation:

- helps to improve water quality,
- provides habitat and food for birds, fish and other wildlife,
- provides shade and shelter and
- is a source of recreational and scenic amenity.

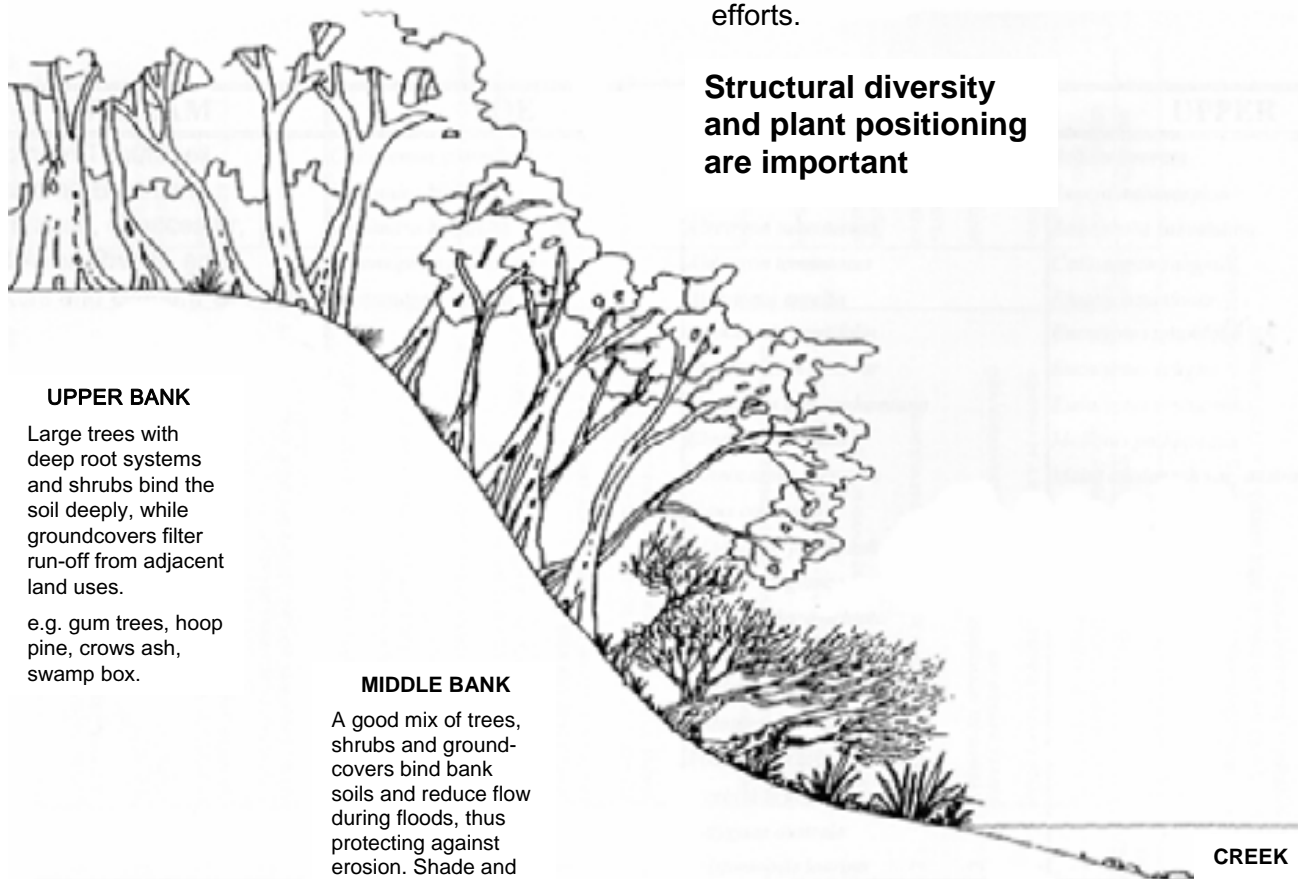
Different types of vegetation naturally establish and thrive on different parts of the creek bank.

For instance, the plants that naturally grow on the water's edge (e.g. weeping lilly pillys, tea trees, weeping bottle brushes and water gums) are adapted to cope with fluctuating water levels and in periods of high flow will in most cases bend over without damaging banks. In fact, by providing resistance against flowing water the vegetation on the lower bank absorbs energy and protects the bank from scour.

Other plants naturally belong further up the bank profile (e.g. gum trees) and act to bind the soil deeply while others grow all over the banks (e.g. mat rushes) and protect the bank soils with their fibrous root systems.

These factors are important to consider when deciding 'which plant where?' in your revegetation efforts.

Structural diversity and plant positioning are important



UPPER BANK

Large trees with deep root systems and shrubs bind the soil deeply, while groundcovers filter run-off from adjacent land uses.

e.g. gum trees, hoop pine, crows ash, swamp box.

MIDDLE BANK

A good mix of trees, shrubs and groundcovers bind bank soils and reduce flow during floods, thus protecting against erosion. Shade and debris from these plants help to maintain creek health.

e.g. wattles, figs, tea trees, she-oaks.

LOWER BANK

Trees, shrubs and groundcovers with matted root systems and flexible branches protect the bank from undercutting and scour. These plants are tolerant of periodic inundation and are very important for bank protection.

e.g. bottlebrush, tea trees, mat rush, weeping lilly pilly, rushes, sedges

CREEK

A guide to planting on creek banks

Good planning increases your chances of achieving your goals. The following information will help you make your project a success and avoid some of the pitfalls associated with ad hoc planting.

Choose appropriate species for the site and plan where on the bank they are to be planted. Plants can be obtained by:

- collecting local seed and propagating on-farm, which may save on establishment costs, and/or,
- obtaining local native plants from an accredited nursery.

Plan when to plant. Aim to plant a few months before the wet season starts and irrigate OR plant towards the end of the wet season. If planting in the dry season then irrigation will be essential.

Control all competitive factors at the site by:

- spot spraying grasses with a knockdown herbicide (e.g. Roundup biactive ®).
- stem-injecting woody weeds.
- fencing the site and managing stock access.

Choose planting method:

- **Direct transplant**

Seedlings of many species can be directly transplanted from the creek bed to the banks. Alternatively they can be grown on in pots for planting during optimal conditions when the plants are more advanced.

- **Direct seeding**

Some plants (e.g. wattles, bottlebrush, tea trees, rushes, lilly pillies, gums and she-oaks) can be sown directly onto the site where you want them to grow. This requires viable seed, a well prepared seed bed, and 3-5 days of moist, warm conditions.

- **Division**

Mature clumps of many tufted plants (e.g. mat rushes, sedges) can be dug up, divided and directly transplanted into moist soil or gravel. Alternatively they can be grown on in pots for planting during optimal conditions when the plants are more advanced.

Choose planting layouts:

- **Belts**

Space plants 1-2m apart. High initial maintenance effort.

- **Rows**

Rows should be perpendicular to the direction of flow. Space rows to allow maintenance.

- **Clumps**

Most natural outcome. Relies on some natural regeneration. Plants 1m apart in dense clumps. Easiest maintenance.

Follow-up maintenance will be required to ensure longterm success. Keep seedlings above the height of weeds. Fertilize and irrigate as necessary. Fence repair and replacement planting may be required after flooding.

Keep good planting records including photographs, plant survival rates, techniques used, and the effectiveness of these techniques in meeting the desired outcomes. This information will be invaluable for assisting other landholders involved in similar projects.

Plants Suitable for Creekbank Planting

UPPER BANK

Araucaria cunninghamii – hoop pine
Argyrodendron trifolialatum – brown tulip oak
Auranticarpa rhombifolia – diamond pittosporum
Babingtonia similis – twiggy myrtle
Canthium coprosmoides – coastal canthium
Cassia brewsteri – Leichhardt bean
Corymbia intermedia – bloodwood
Cupaniopsis parvifolia – small-leaved tuckeroo
Cupaniopsis serrata – smooth tuckeroo
Dianella caerulea – blue flax lilly
Dodonea triquetra – hop bush
Elaeocarpus grandis – blue quandong
Ellatostachyis nervosa – green tamarind
Endriandra discolor – rose walnut
Eucalyptus fibrosa – broad-leaved ironbark
Eucalyptus grandis – flooded gum
Eucalyptus microcorys – tallow wood
Eucalyptus propinqua – grey gum
Eucalyptus resinifera – red mahogany
Eucalyptus tereticornis – forest red gum
Euroschinus falcata – pink poplar
Ficus coronata, fraseri – sandpaper figs
Ficus macrophylla – Moreton Bay fig
Flindersia australis – crow's ash
Gahnia aspera – sword grass
Grevillea robusta – silky oak
Guioa semiglauc – wild quince
Hovea acutifolia – hovea
Litsea leefeana – brown bolly gum
Lophostemon suaveolens – swamp box
Mallotus philipensis – red kamala
Melia azederach – white cedar
Oplismenus aemulus – creeping beard grass
Parachidendron pruinatum – snow wood
Petalostigma trioculare – quinine bush
Pilidiostigma rhytispermum – small-leaved plum myrtle
Pittosporum revolutum – yellow pittosporum
Pittosporum undulatum – native daphne
Planchonella australis – black plum
Podocarpus elatus – brown pine
Polyscias elegans – celerywood

Psychotria daphnoides, loniceroides – psychotria
Rapanea variabilis – muttonwood
Rhodamnia rubescens – scrub turpentine
Rhodospaera rhodanthema – deep yellowwood
Sarcopteryx stipata – steelwood
Sterculia quadrifida – peanut tree
Toona ciliata – red cedar

MIDDLE BANK

Acacia melanoxylon – blackwood
Acmena smithii – creek lilly pilly
Acronychia oblingifolia – common acronychia
Alphananthe philippinensis – rough-leaved elm
Alphitonia excelsa – soap tree
Alyxia rusCIFolia – chain fruit
Archontophoenix cunninghamiana – bangalow palm
Babingtonia similis – twiggy myrtle
Backhousia myrtifolia – silky myrtle
Baeckea virgata var. parvula
Canthium odoratum – shiny-leaved canthium
Carex appressa – tall sedge
Castanospermum australe – blackbean
Casuarina species – she-oaks
Clerodendron floribundum – lolly bush
Commersonia bartramia – brown kurrajongs
Cordyline species – palm lilies
Cryptocarya species – native laurels
Cupaniopsis parvifolia – small-leaved tuckeroo
Dianella caerulea – blue flax lilly
Diospyros species – native ebonies
Dodonea triquetra – hop bush
Dysoxylum guadichaudianum – ivory mahogany
Ehretia acuminata – koda
Elaeocarpus obovatus – hard quandong
Ficus species – strangler figs; sandpaper figs
Flindersia schottiana – bumpy ash
Gahnia aspera – sword grass
Glochidion ferdinandi – cheese tree
Glochidion sumatranum – umbrella cheese tree
Gmelina leichhardtii – white beech
Guioa semiglauc – wild quince
Harpulia hillii – blunt-leaved tulip
Harpulia pendula – tulipwood
Hibiscus heterophyllus – native rosella
Hovea acutifolia – hovea

Hymenosporum flavum – native frangipani
Jagera pseudorhus – foambark
Leptospermum species – tea trees
Mallotus claoxyloides – green kamala
Melaleuca bracteata – black tea-tree
Melicope elleryana – pink euodia
Melicope micrococca – white euodia
Misharytera species – native tamarinds
Mishocarpus pyriformis – yellow pear fruit
Oplismenus aemulus – creeping beard grass
Pandorea pandorana – wonga vine
Pavetta australiensis – pavetta
Petalostigma trioculare – quinine bush
Pilidiostigma rhytispermum – small-leaved plum myrtle
Polyalthia nitidissima – canary beech
Pseudoweinmannia lachnocarpa – rose marara
Rapanea variabilis – muttonwood
Rhodomyrtus psidiodes – native guava
Schizomeria ovata – crabapple
Sloanea australis – maiden's blush
Streblus brunonianus – whalebone tree
Syzygium francisii – giant water gum
Tabernaemontana pandacqui – banana bush

LOWER BANK

Callistemon salignus – white bottlebrush
Callistemon viminalis – weeping bottlebrush
Carex appressa – tall sedge
Casuarina cunninghamii – river she-oak
Dianella caerulea – blue flax lilly
Ficus coronata, fraseri – sandpaper figs
Leptospermum liversidgei – swamp may
Lomandra species – matrushes
Melaleuca linarifolia – snow in summer
Sloanea australis – maiden's blush
Syzygium australe – scrub cherry
Waterhousea floribunda – weeping lilly-pilly