

# 2010 Volunteer Grower Information



## Growing local native seedlings is a rewarding and practical way to help combat many environmental problems.

With the help of over 1200 volunteer growers each year, Trees For Life offers native seedlings to farmers and other landholders to promote revegetation and tree planting.

Approximately 1 million native seedlings were grown last Summer and during Autumn and Winter will be planted across South Australia.

### Thank you to everyone who grew seedlings.

We are now planning the next growing season and trust you will want to be part of it.



## Your Questions

**How many should I grow?** New growers usually raise 6 boxes. But if you have grown seedlings before we ask you to consider growing 10 boxes, because many farmers and landholders order that number.

**Do I have to become a Trees For Life member?** Yes. If you are not already a member, you automatically become a free member when you send in your volunteer grower form. If you can afford to become a financial member, or give a tax-deductible donation, we appreciate your extra help.

**Do I need a green thumb?** No. But you need time, commitment, the ability to read and follow propagation instructions and a sunny spot in your backyard. You can call us for help and advice at any time over the season. All growers are encouraged to attend a short propagation workshop; details are enclosed and will also appear in the September newsletter.

**What do I get?** We supply you with an instruction book and all the materials you need. (List overleaf)

**Where do I collect my materials?** We run distribution depots all over South Australia and will assign you to your nearest one according to your postcode. Country people may have to travel some distance. You can phone us to find out the location of your nearest depot on 8406 0500.

### *Please read overleaf for further details*

**SCHOOLS:** A large part of the growing season coincides with the summer school holidays. We encourage schools to order materials to raise seedlings for their own projects rather than be volunteer growers for others.

**GROUPS AND CLUBS:** Despite good intentions, groups have difficulty raising seedlings because not all members are as committed as the organiser. Giving a few boxes to each group member means you lose control and we know from experience that the results are usually unsatisfactory. It is best if you offer to grow as many seedlings as you can be personally responsible for, and encourage others to volunteer on their own behalf. All growers must be Trees For Life members to be covered by our insurance.

**ARE YOU UNDER 18?** Many younger people are unable to meet the time commitments and follow through. Total parental supervision and responsibility are essential.

## GROWER TIMELINE

### Please complete and return form B as soon as possible

**October** - You receive collection details.

**November** - Collect supplies from your depot and start raising your seedlings.

**December** - If you are growing for a landholder, we write and give them your contact details. Some of your first seedlings may be appearing.

**January & February** - An important time for germination. Check your progress and ask for advice if needed. Transplant seedlings if necessary.

**March** - If you need backup seedlings check your newsletter for details.

**April** - Backup month for those growing for landholders. Deliver project seedlings.

**May** - If you are growing for a landholder, they will collect the seedlings from you.

# Please consider these points before deciding

## **Commitment to doing a good job.**

The outcome is important – we want you to produce good quality seedlings which will be a credit to yourself and to Trees For Life. The landholder is relying on you. Growing seedlings is serious business and not to be done in a half hearted way, or to fulfil school or community service requirements where the process is important but the end product is incidental. If growing is not done properly a lot of time and resources will be wasted. The end result is important and we ask that you do it well or not at all.

**Time.** Filling tubes takes about one hour per box. Consider asking a friend to help - it will make this step faster and more enjoyable. Once the boxes are set up and the seed sown they need to be watered every day. You need to check the seedlings regularly for progress and problems. Transplanting requires care and time. The growing season starts at a busy time for most people with school breakup, Christmas and holidays. You need to start on time to get the best results.

**How many?** In most cases the smallest number you can grow is six boxes (300 seedlings). This is a good number for first time growers. If you live in Adelaide and grow six boxes it's most likely you will grow for a revegetation project. If you grow ten boxes it's most likely that you will grow for one landholder. Please grow ten boxes if you can.

**Shade and sun. Seedlings need full sun for most of the day to grow strong and healthy.** Begin with 50% density shade cloth through the early stages of germination and first growth. The best way to do this is to set up your bench in full sun and cover it with shade cloth for the early stages.

**Space and a raised bench.** Six boxes take up one square metre. It is critical that you have a bench of comfortable working height to keep your boxes off the ground away from slugs, soil-borne diseases and animals.

Benches come in many forms. You can use anything from a specially designed propagation bench to one made of trestles and an old security door. You can come up with your own idea as long as your bench is sturdy, free draining and gets the seedlings up off the ground.

**A few bricks on the ground is not good enough.**

**Your back.** Full boxes of soil weigh 12 kg when dry and more when wet. Most people can lift them but if you have back problems, or difficulty lifting, you need reliable help when collecting and moving the boxes.

**Water.** You need an adequate supply of reasonable quality water. Some bore water, and saline water, may not be suitable. If you can grow vegetable seedlings you should be able to grow native seedlings. We estimate that growing ten boxes will add a maximum of \$8 to your water bill.

**Aim for one good seedling in each tube.** Germination is not uniform across all tubes. You will need to transplant seedlings from tubes with multiples to those with none. Don't worry - the instructions tell you how.

**Help.** We provide complete instructions and backup seedlings in April if required. You can phone us for help and advice at any time over the season.

**Communication.** If you are growing for a farmer or other landholder **we give you their details and you deal directly with them.** We ask them to show an interest in the seedlings' progress and collect them in May, or when you say they are ready. Most landholders are grateful to their volunteer grower. Regrettably, a few landholders fail to understand the special nature of the volunteer growers' contribution - they are accustomed to commercial transactions and fail to express appreciation for the voluntary work done. In these cases, we encourage you to adopt the attitude that getting trees in the ground is the most important thing, and try to overlook the discourtesy of one for the greater benefit of the land. We can help with contact if you have any difficulties.

## **Will you need to deliver your seedlings?**

**Yes:** if you grow for a revegetation project, we ask you to deliver your seedlings to a collection point in April.

**No:** if you grow for a farmer or landholder, it is their responsibility to collect the seedlings from you.

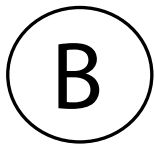
*Proud sponsor*



## **WE SUPPLY YOU WITH THESE MATERIALS**

- ~ Polystyrene boxes (each holds 60 seedlings)
- ~ Soil mix
- ~ Slow release fertiliser
- ~ Propagation tubes
- ~ Gravel mulch
- ~ Seed of native plants
- ~ Instruction Booklet

Six boxes of materials fit into the boot of a small car



# 2010 Volunteer Grower Form



I have read the Information Sheet and want to grow  
**6 8 10 15 20 other** ..... (Please circle a number)  
**boxes of seedlings for a landholder or revegetation project.**

*Is this the wrong form for you? Do you want seedlings for your own use instead?  
 Phone us right now on 8406 0500 to get an order form sent out. Landholder  
 orders close on July 31.*

Name .....

Address .....

Phone H.....W/M.....

How did you find out about being a volunteer grower? .....

Please tick this box to give us permission to register you with SA Water as a TFL volunteer grower

**Please grow 10 boxes if you can**  
 If you have grown before, or you live in the country, please consider growing 10 boxes because many farmers order that number.

**TFL Growers & Water Restrictions**  
 Trees For Life is in discussion with SA Water about the coming propagation season. We will let you know in due course if any special arrangements are necessary. Meanwhile please tick the box giving TFL permission to register you (if necessary) with SA Water as a grower

**Would you like to grow for last year's landholder? Do not write their name here unless you have discussed it with them and they have agreed. Please return this form before October 1 for us to make the match.**

***They must place an order by July 31, and you must offer to grow the same number of boxes as they order.***

I'd like to grow for the same landholder I grew for last year

**OR**

I'd like to grow for Name .....

Their TFL Member No .....

I have discussed it with them and they have agreed. **They have placed an order this season.**

No particular person in mind? We'll match you with a landholder or project.

**To ensure we match you with the right person you need to provide their member number. If you don't know their number or you have any questions please phone us on 8406 0500.**

**If you are not already a member and would like to support our work financially please complete your membership preference and payment details below**

*(whilst you do not have to be a financial member to grow, financial membership is greatly appreciated as your financial support assists our programs in revegetating South Australia and protecting its remnant bushland)*

membership fees	1 year	3 years	5 years	life*
<b>individual/family</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120	<input type="checkbox"/> \$190	<input type="checkbox"/> \$540
<b>concession</b> (not eligible to order seedlings)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$22			
<b>Group</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200	<input type="checkbox"/> \$320	<input type="checkbox"/> \$900
<b>payment</b>	visa	mastercard	cheque	money order

\* Life membership for group members is 15 years - individual/family and group memberships do not include GST

card number \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date ...../..... total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

name on card.....signature.....

**FAX TO: 84060599 or post to: Trees For Life, 5 May Tce, Brooklyn Park SA 5032**