

Restoring complex vegetation communities

Presenter: Paul Gibson Roy (the wildflower guy in the picture)

©Scheltema

Native Grassy Communities

- At the time of European settlement native grasslands and grassy woodland were widespread from southern Queensland to Victoria on a footprint now termed 'the sheep-wheat belt'
- Because of their openness and arable soils they were prime targets for cropping or modified as exotic pastures
- They now exist as less than 5% of their original extent occurring in locations not utilised for agriculture or retained as travelling-stock reserves



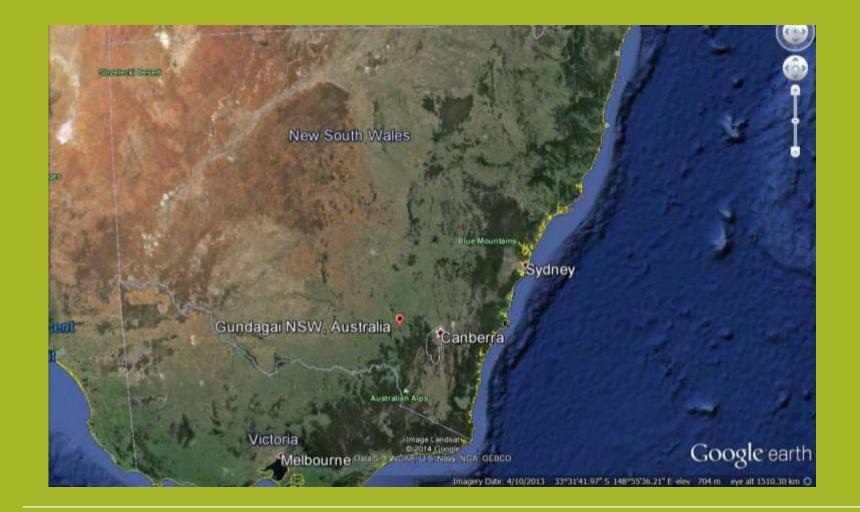


ALTERED AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES

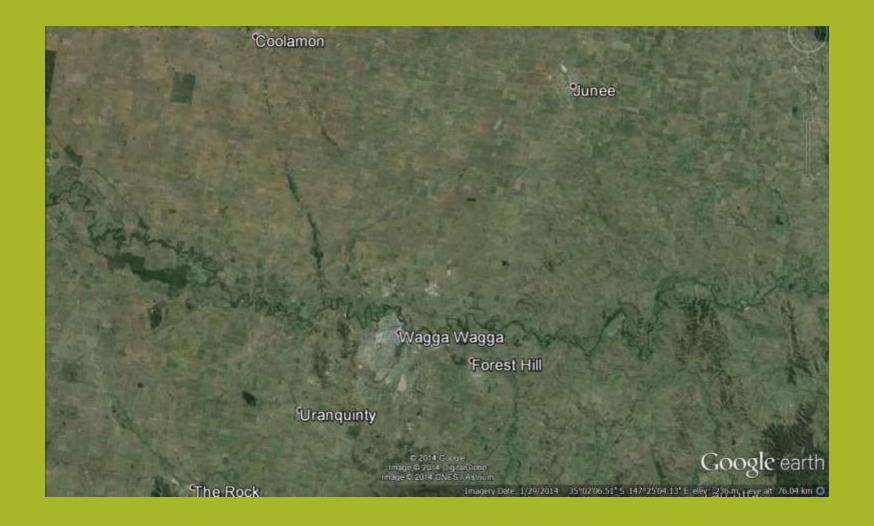


Less than 5%.... How much 'native nature' is there in our rural landscapes?

- Cropping and grazing at a continental-scale
- Systems that require high energy inputs to maintain productivity and desired states
- Skewed toward low complexity
- Low tolerance for biodiversity (native or exotic)



ALTERED AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES



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Altered Agricultural Landscapes



SO WHAT DOES A HIGH QUALITY NATIVE GRASSLAND OR GRASSY WOODLAND LOOK LIKE?



ROKEWOOD VICTORIA



ARMADALE NORTHERN NSW



CHATSWORTH SOUTH WESTERN VIC



STAWELL VIC



ARARAT VIC



WOORNDOO SOUTH WESTERN VIC

RESTORING NATIVE GRASSY COMMUNITIES



Restoration in Australia

Historically, restoration most often utilized the approaches of :

- tube stock planting
- drill seeding
- hydro seeding
- assisted regeneration

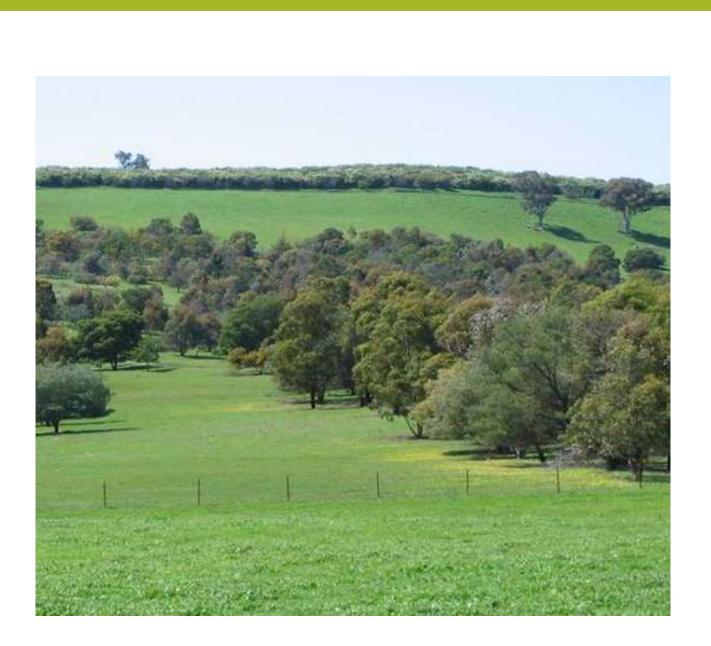
In most instances the main focus is on the **<u>tree and shrub</u>** layers



TREES AND SHRUBS



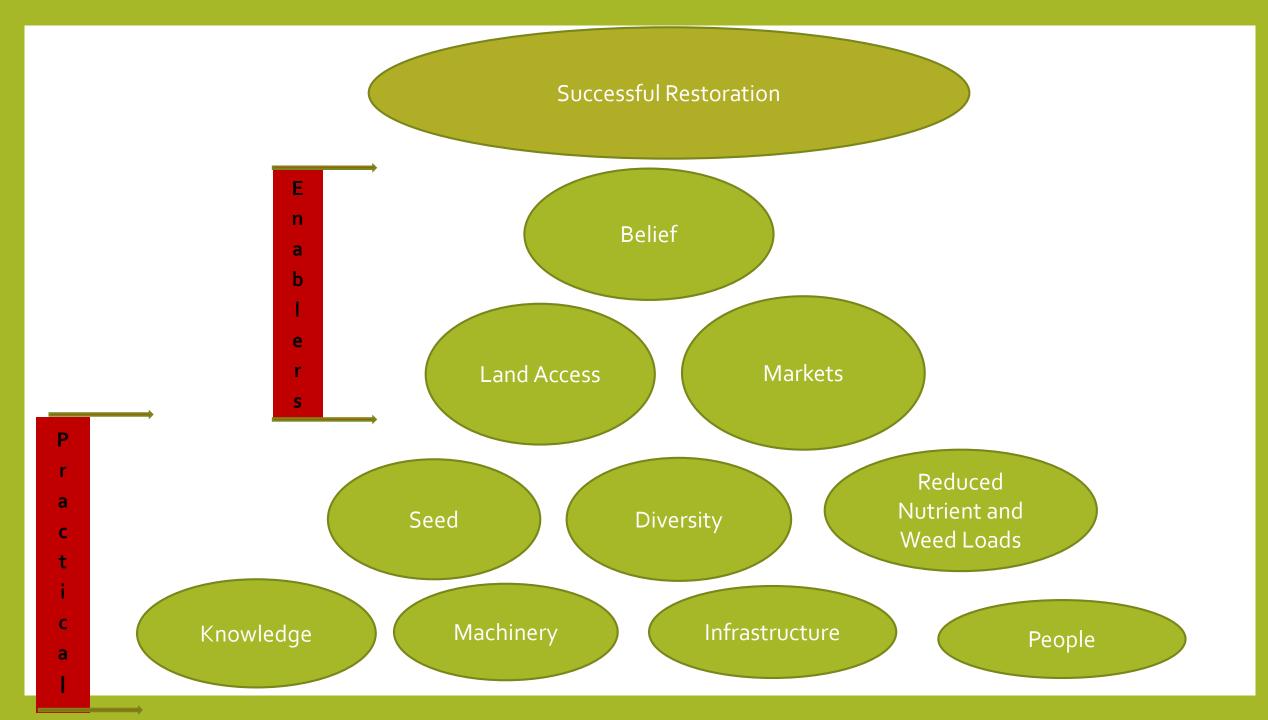
TREES AND SHRUBS



MORE TREES AND SHRUBS!



BUT CAN COMPLEX GROUND-LAYER COMMUNITIES BE RESTORED?





















MACHINERY AND INFRASTRUCTURE











PEOPLE





SEED!!!!

Access to seed of acceptable quality and quantity from a broad range of species is crucial for restoration success

Implications of High Seed Requirements on Remnant Vegetation Increased demand for wild native seed could : Damage existing stands of native vegetation Reduce the capacity of native vegetation to regenerate Inadvertently introduce weeds Reduce food sources for native fauna

GROWING NATIVE SEED



SEED PRODUCTION MAY OFFER A SOLUTION



Greening Australia Richmond Seed HUb

Grass & Forb SPA: Zone 1

Legend

Bell Av Near Valder Av

O Feature 1

Grass and Forb Plots

SEED PRODUCTION

Google earth

2016 Google



IN-GROUND KANGAROO GRASS CELLS





HARVEST

THE GRASSY GROUNDCOVER RESTORATION PROJECT

EXPERIMENT TO PRACTICE

RESTORATIONS ON SCALPS

TIME LAPSE



WICKLIFFE SITE 1: 2006



WICKLIFFE SITE 1: 2006











WICKLIFFE 2017



THREATENED SEEDED SPECIES



COLONISING SPECIES



WICKLIFFE SITE 2 2006



WICKLIFFE SITE 2: 2006



WICKLIFFE 2008



WICKLIFFE 2017



GEELONG 2006



GEELONG 2009



GEELONG 2017



NARELLAN 2015



NARELLAN 2016



NARELLAN 2017



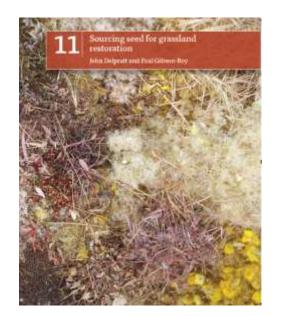
AND BY INCREASING UNDERSTORY COMPLEXITY AND RESTORING HABITAT, WATCH THE BIODIVERSITY 'BLOOM' IN UNEXPECTED (OR MAYBE NOT SO UNEXPECTED) WAYS!!!



WHY DO WE NEED TO RESTORE GRASSLANDS?



BAD THINGS KEEP HAPPENING TO REMNANT GRASSLANDS (OCT 2017)





For Detailed Information on Grasslands and Restoration



Managing and restoring the native grasslands of south-eastern Australia develop/blocks S0. Williams, Addas Mershall and Ada W. Margan 12 The restoration of sative grasslands



LOOKING ELSEWHERE FOR INSPIRATION



HOW OTHERS ARE PPROCHING RESTORATION

Demand from large US markets for native plants and seed have driven huge growth in the restoration and seed production sectors

- Government Incentive Programs
 - Conservation Reserve Program, Wetland Reserve Program, Grassland Reserve Program, Monarch Butterfly Program
- Road Authorities
- Offset mitigation
- Urban and landscape beatification

A lack of similar markets has constrained the Australian restoration and seed production sectors



Residuations Native Seed has been growing and supplying high quality regionally adapted Native Seeds to the Eastern half of the US for over 20 years. We are farmers and stmanvationists and have grown from a small family-owned business to one of the largest send providers in the East. Our success can be attributed to our considerent to clean high quality send, development of Ecotypes adapted to such region we sarve, and an experienced and intervied getable staff dedicated to friendly helpful service. We focus on sublity and service because every success we bring our Customers is a living demonstration and an incentive for others to use natives.

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The bulk of seed demand in the is met by commercial seed

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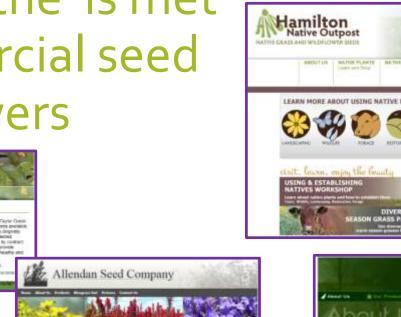




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Feyh Farm Seed Company Processors and Producers of Native Grasses & Wild

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Grown for Your Farm on Ours Figh Farm Good Campany is a family farm in Kamas producing native grounds, and source granaes, millets and wildflowers. We have been in the originate press and basisers for nearly 20 years. Only recently have no official our products to the and user. We are the begat proved brane processor operating in North America, offering mar 30 percent of all provide byome app/

No Job Too Small or Too Large

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Fast Farm Good Company, produces and precesses all reader walking grosses and in conservablet mices in Parses. We also carry a full line of failes and others present that a component may require to complete a custom rela. Whether you need native grass seed for CPP, EQUIP or WHEP, slow latte plin yell a pathe on your prace menting area

Each Egent load also handles reducation projects and hamponary and pairmahore raid covers.











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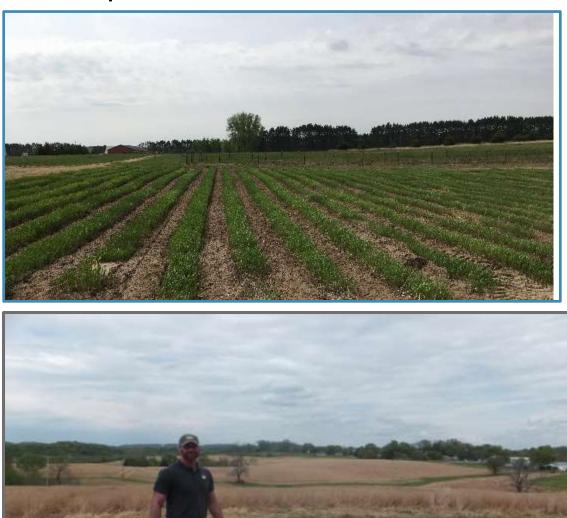




Large-scale Grass Crops







Large-scale Forb Crops



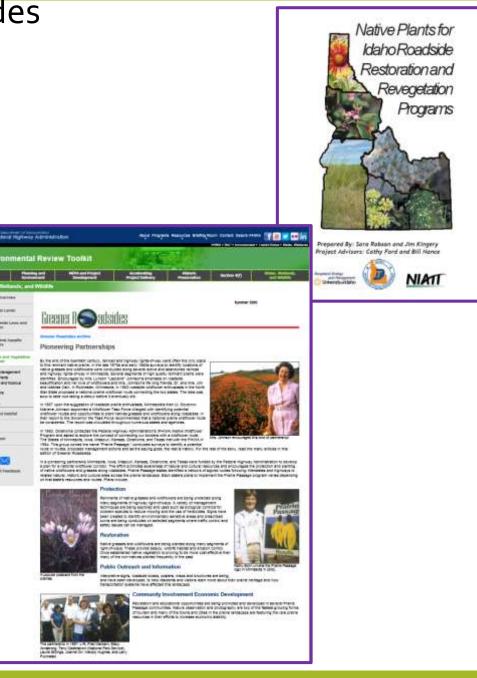
Natives on US Roadsides

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History of Vegetation Management

1965: The Highway Beautification Act—under Ladybird Johnson's influence encouraged the removal of billboards, screening of junkyards, and landscaping of roadsides.

- **1969:** The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) established the notion of avoidance and minimization of disturbance. This law encouraged environmentally sensitive solutions.
- **1987:** The Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act (STURAA) is the act that includes the requirement to plant native wildflowers with of one percent of a highway project's landscape budget when federal funds are used. By 1987, some states were already planting more than that minimum. By 1994, only 38 states had program level support for native wildflowers.
- **1991:** The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) provided funding for enhancements. One of the ten categories of enhancements was landscaping. All ISTEA projects were subject to the STURAA requirement of native wildflower use.
- **1994:** The Executive Memorandum on environmentally and economically beneficial landscaping was signed by President Clinton. The memo recommended the use of regional native plants, less fertilizers, less pesticides, less irrigation on federal grounds, lands, and federally funded landscape projects ...as in highway construction projects.
- **1999:** An Executive Order on invasive plants was signed by President Clinton. It ordered increased communication and cooperation of all agencies through a National Invasive Species Council. All agencies focused on prevention and control of invasive plant species, and followed up with restoration of native plants as directed.⁵⁰





WILDFLOWER Program Funding

Revenue from the sale of personalized license plates provides the principle source of funding for the North Carolina Department of Transportation Wildflower Program. When you purchase a personalized plate you are supporting wildflowers and highway beautification with a portion of the extra fee. Many people choose to make a direct contribution to the wildflower program, since 100 percent of such contributions are used for the program. Contributions can be made to the North Carolina Department of Transportation.



For more information or to make a contribution to the Wildflower Program write to the:

North Carolina Department of Transportation Roadside Environmental Unit 1557 Mail Service Center Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1557

North Carolina Department of Transport Wildflower Program

The North Carolina Department of Transportation Wildflower Program began in 1985 as an integral part of highway beautification. Twelve acres were sown during the first year of production. Today, wildflower beds are installed and maintained across the state by Roadside Environmental personnel in each of the fourteen highway divisions.

This booklet is intended as a reference to identify the wildflowers planted by NCDOT, as well as some of the naturally occurring ones growing along North Carolina highways. Both botanical and common names are listed on the following pages. Photographs with descriptions and planting information are arranged alphabetically.

This guide also contains the installation techniques used by Roadside Environmental personnel, as well as instructions for planting your own wildflowers at home.

We hope this booklet will be useful as you drive along our highways and in your own wildflower gardening endeavors. Remember, for your own safety, do not stop and pick the wildflowers. Please leave them for everyone to enjoy!



QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE WILDFLOWER PROGRAM

- Former First Lady Dottie Martin (pictured to the left), wife of former Gov. Jim Martin, is credited with initiating the idea for the N.C. program after reading an article in the Wall Street Journal about wildflower beds in Texas.
- Tourism in North Carolina provides \$18 billion to the state's economy annually. Since most visitors arrive by vehicle, the Wildflower Program plays a particularly important role in making the state an appealing destination. The program is one of NCDOT's most popular initiatives, and receives hundreds of comments of praise each year from residents and visitors alike.





Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs Road Beautification Project



"Let's create a fantastic tapestry across Oregon as a reminder to all that we have a Beautiful state. Let's let wildflowers make our statement in opposition to the outdoor advertising industry. Let's light up our landscape with wildflowers and other native plants. And by planting wildflowers. Help create A tapestry of colour across Oregon, a Beautiful State to visit and a place to live"

 A collaboration between the OSFGC and the Oregon Department of Transportation first discussed in 2014 and now ready for launch in 2016 aiming to establish a spectacular project of planting wildflowers across the state of Oregon in honour of the 50th Anniversary of Lady Bird Johnson's Highway Beautification Act



Natives on US Roadsides































Natives in US built landscapes











MCARE Health Plaza



CAN WE USE OUR ROAD CORRIDORS TO A POSITIVE OUTCOME

PGIBSON-____ROY@GREENINGAUSTRALIA.OGR.AU___