

## Becoming a grower

**WHY GROW?** - Soil degradation is one of the most serious problems facing rural Victoria, and many landholders and Landcare groups are revegetating their properties to tackle soil erosion, salinity and acidification, as well as the loss of habitat and biodiversity.

The Re-Tree Scheme, run by TreeProject, assists landholders revegetate their land by recruiting urban people to grow indigenous seedlings in their backyards. They will be planted out on farms and some urban parks.

This allows landholders access to low cost seedlings that will help improve the environment and create homes for wildlife, while giving urban people an opportunity to make a real difference to the environment. TreeProject provides volunteer growers with all of the materials and instructions needed to set up a 'backyard nursery'.

**SIGNING UP** - Volunteer growers can register with TreeProject through the year. In September we send out confirmation forms, which need to be returned to confirm you are growing for the coming season. We have two growing rounds to choose from - November or January.

**THE GROWER'S KIT** - Using recycled and purchased supplies, TreeProject puts together the growing kits, complete with potting mix, tubes, fertiliser, mulch, labels, instructions and seed collected by the landholders. Each kit contains materials for 350 seedlings, which takes up about 2 square metres. You will also be given the details of your landholder, and are encouraged to keep them updated.

**DISTRIBUTION** - You collect your grower's kit on set days in November and January. One kit will fit in a car boot.

**GROWING SEEDLINGS** - The grower instructions cover every aspect of setting up and nurturing your seedlings. A raised sunny spot in your backyard is ideal. The first job is to fill the tubes and sow the seed. Then you water them daily, and thin them out to leave one sturdy seedling per tube. Native species are hardy, usually with high germination rates. You will have an area coordinator to answer any queries during the growing stage.

**COLLECTION & PLANTING** - When your seedlings are mature, you need to arrange for them to be collected by or delivered to your landholder. If you are interested in planting, let your landholder know - they may want you up there to help out! It's immensely satisfying to actually see the results of your efforts take root on the land.

## Your Growing Kit

The basic growing kit consists of -

1. **7 boxes** - polystyrene fruit boxes measuring 50 x 30 x 20 cm.
2. **350 forestry tubes**, recycled plastic tubes.
3. **Slow release fertiliser**, one packet per box.
4. **Potting mix** - boxes are filled with loose potting mix; you will need to fill the tubes and fit them snugly into the box.
5. **River sand** mulch which prevents the fine seed washing away and protects soil surface, one bag per box.
6. **Packaged seed** provided by the landholder.
7. **Instruction Booklet**, including sowing times and contact details for the landholder you are growing for and your area coordinator.

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To Register, return this to  
(see overleaf)

TreeProject  
3rd Floor 247 Flinders Lane  
Melbourne Vic 3000

or phone: 9659 9477

email: [de.grebner@treeproject.org.au](mailto:de.grebner@treeproject.org.au)

**BEFORE DECIDING TO GROW, PLEASE CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING FACTORS CAREFULLY:**

- 1. Attention:** The seedlings require some daily attention.
- 2. Time:** Filling the tubes takes time - you will need several hours.
- 3. Timing:** The beginning of the propagation period, Dec/Jan, is a busy time for most people (school and summer holidays, Xmas, etc) and the seed sowing needs to be done on schedule.
- 4. Space:** 7 boxes take up about 2 square metres and ideally you need a bench or rack to raise them to comfortable working height, safe from dogs, snails and small children.

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- Please register me as a Volunteer Grower  
 I would like to become a TreeProject member (\$33 cheque/money order enclosed).

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **P/code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ph.** \_\_\_\_\_ (bh) \_\_\_\_\_ (ah)

**email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Position:** The trees must be raised in full sun for all or most of the day. This will ensure hardy seedlings resistant to disease and the shock of transplanting.

**6. Handling:** Full boxes weigh approximately 12 kg; an average fit person can lift and handle them easily. If you have a back problem, please ensure you have reliable help when collecting and managing your kit.

**7. Instructions:** TreeProject provides detailed instructions and contact names of experienced growers (area coordinators), so there is always help on hand

**If you think this is a great program, you can support us by becoming a member or making a donation. Our annual membership fee of \$33 helps us to continue to restore the environment. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.**

**TreeProject**

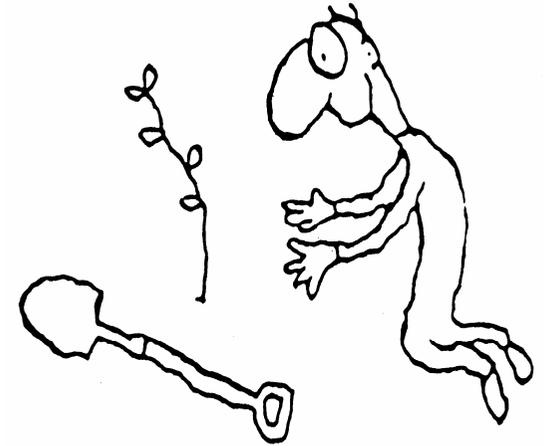
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# TreeProject

*Sowing the seeds for a sustainable future*



## Volunteer Seedling Grower

**Propagate indigenous  
seedlings for rural  
revegetation projects**