

Restoring our Waterways Landholder Resource Guide

Site Preparation

This companion resource supports GeoCatch's 'Restoring our Waterways' Video 5 – Site Preparation and provides practical guidance for landholders preparing a waterway revegetation site in South West Western Australia.



Why Site Preparation Matters?

Effective site preparation is one of the strongest predictors of revegetation success. Reducing weed competition before planting improves seedling survival, growth and establishment.

Key Site Preparation Steps

- ☐ Assess the site and map weeds.
- ☐ Identify erosion risks and access tracks.
- ☐ Begin weed control 6–12 months before planting.
- ☐ Monitor and re-treat weeds as required.
- ☐ Establish weed-free planting zones prior to winter planting.

START WEED CONTROL EARLY!
Most successful riparian
revegetation projects begin
preparation 6–12 months
before planting.

Autumn

Target perennial weeds
after opening rains.

Winter

Manage emerging
annual weeds.

Spring

Prevent seed set and control
emerging weeds.

Summer

Assess outcomes and
plan follow-up control.

Recommended Timeline

6–12 months before planting

Begin weed
control

3–6 months before planting

Monitor &
re-treat

1–2 months before planting

Final spray &
site preparation

Planting season

Plant into
clean site

Common problem weeds along riparian zones in South West WA include:

- Kikuyu grass
- Blackberry
- Arum Lily
- Couch Grass
- Watsonia
- Bridal Creeper
- Cape Tulip



Understanding weed growth stages

Effective weed management in riparian revegetation relies on correctly identifying weed species and treating them at the appropriate stage of growth. Different weeds respond differently to control methods, and a technique that works well on a young plant may be ineffective on a mature one.

Seedlings are generally the easiest and most cost-effective stage to control, while actively growing plants are more likely to absorb herbicides effectively. Perennial species with bulbs, rhizomes or tubers often require repeated treatments because they can regenerate from underground structures even after above-ground growth has been removed. Monitoring and follow-up control are therefore important components of successful weed management.

Speak to your local rural shop to discuss treatment and products.

Meet Luke from Anniebrook

A tributary of Anniebrook runs through Luke's property and the site was subject to infestations of Blackberry and Arum Lilies. To prepare for the restoration of this riparian zone, Luke started dealing with these weeds early. He cleared the weeds as best as he could, then sprayed twice over a period of a couple months to kill rhizomes. The key was a multi-faceted approach and on-going monitoring.



“Working with GeoCatch has meant that I can fully rehabilitate my creek line and turn it into a functioning ecosystem instead of a cluster of weeds!” Luke Hill

Waterway Considerations

- ✓ Avoid excessive soil disturbance near waterway banks and protect existing native vegetation.
- ✓ Consider weather conditions when treating weeds and avoid drift.
- ✓ Use and comply with products registered for aquatic or riparian environments and follow label requirements near waterways.
- ✓ Consider buffer zones – avoid spraying within 5m of water.

Further resources

- ✓ Watch GeoCatch's *Restoring our Waterways* video series including:



- Planning
- Fencing
- Planting
- Protecting your plants

- ✓ The *Weeds Australia* website is designed to help identify and manage weeds.



Includes Australia's first AI weed identification app.

- ✓ *River Action Plans* – Learn more about the Geographe region, its sub-catchments and associated waterways. Search for 'River Action Plan' and find plans for:



- Capel River
- Carburnup River
- Anniebrook
- Vasse River
- Sabina, Abba and Ludlow Rivers
- Cape Naturaliste Streams
- Gynudup Brook

This resource is a guide only. Always seek site-specific advice from qualified professionals. Herbicide use must comply with label directions and relevant legislation.

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