



Australian Government



**CLARENCE VALLEY
BIODIVERSITY
RESOURCE SUPPORT
PROJECT
SEED COLLECTOR
GUIDELINES**

2012

Safe Working Practices

Clarence Landcare Inc. is committed to delivery of and encouraging safe working practices in the office and in the field and as part of our commitment to worker health safety, all contractors must wear appropriate PPE equipment and when using seed collection equipment operate in a safe manner without risk of harm or injury to themselves or others. A copy of our OH&S policy and risk assessment procedures can be viewed at our website at www.clarencelandcare.com.au or obtained from our office at suite 1/48 Prince Street Grafton NSW 2460.

All contractors who engage in the Clarence Valley Biodiversity Resource Support Project for the duration of the project; must have their own public liability and workers compensation insurance, a copy of this is to be retained by Clarence Landcare Inc.

Local Plants for Revegetation Projects

Using local native plants for revegetation projects contributes significantly to improving biodiversity. A range of different plant species occur in the Clarence Valley. Where they are located is largely dependent upon their geographic range and distribution as well as preferences for soil conditions and other significant environmental influences. These influences should be taken into account when planning seed collection for revegetation projects so that our seed resources are used wisely.

The decline of some native vegetation communities and seasonal influences on flowering and seeding times, may limit the availability of seed resources and plants. Some species require a permit for seed collection (or collection is limited).

Clarence Landcare can provide advice on suitable plant species selection for all areas of the Clarence Valley based on our plant species records from site visits and project implementation over the past 15 years. We have some lists available on our website already including the publication Clarence Floodplain & Estuary Native Plant Species – a guide to revegetation projects. Other publications available soon include; Clarence Coast Dune Plants and Mid – Lower Clarence Riparian Plants – both are revegetation guides.

Seeds for the Future

The Clarence Valley Biodiversity Resource Support Project aims to provide a coordinated approach to native seed collection and distribution across the Clarence Valley. The project is funded by the Australian Government's Clean Energy Futures Biodiversity Fund and Clean Energy Futures Program.

Clarence Landcare will be recording and mapping seed resource locations in a database and recording distribution from growers to local planting projects on both private and public lands.

Along with fulfilling the basic aims of detailing when and where seed for a particular species is likely to be available we hope to extend our knowledge on plant species and their habitats in the local context and gather data that may lead to a greater understanding of selection pressures operating the Clarence Valley. If the number of individual species at a given location has been significantly reduced, the database should provide enough information to enable the selection of seed for revegetation from a habitat with similar conditions at another location and prove useful in tracking where seed resources are distributed.

Through communication with individuals in the Clarence Native Seed Network who are watching for flowering times and the appearance of seed we are more likely to have seed collected at an opportune time, recorded and then assigned to a network of growers.

When the plants are grown to a suitable stage for planting out they are distributed or picked up by biodiversity projects requiring suitably matched plant species.

The Clarence Native Seed Network is made up of individuals, landowners, public land managers, community groups and volunteers and is coordinated by Clarence Landcare. We are interested in hearing from anyone who would be willing to make seed resources available for collection from their properties or just want to be involved in some way.

Joining the project provides access to native seed collection training and advice. We will also be producing seed collection calendars and guidelines to assist with identification of local plant species with flowering and seeding times.

The primary focus for revegetation activity is the Clarence Floodplain & Estuary landscape; however any location in the Clarence Valley can be part of the Clarence Native Seed Network and associated projects.

The project will link closely with the Clarence Valley Council's Biodiversity Fund Project to support the supply of seed resources and propagator services (community and commercial). The project aims to provide a suitably matched supply of plant stock is available for purchase from the nurseries to support biodiversity and revegetation projects.

The coastal plains landscape supports 11 threatened ecological communities identified in the Clarence Valley Council Biodiversity Strategy, 2010.

- Freshwater Wetlands on Coastal Floodplains of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions.
- Littoral Rainforest in the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions.
- Lowland Rainforest
- Lowland Rainforest on Floodplain in the NSW North Coast Bioregion.
- Sub-tropical Coastal Floodplain Forest of the NSW North Coast Bioregion.
- Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions.
- Swamp Sclerophyll Forest on Coastal Floodplains of the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions.
- Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia
- Coastal Saltmarsh in the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions.
- Coastal Cypress Pine Forest in the NSW North Coast Bioregion (endemic).
- Themeda Grassland on Seacliffs and Coastal Headlands in the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions.

Guidelines

Genetic Material

Obtaining the best genetic material is highly desirable. Plants that are healthy and free from disease are sought. In some cases, this may require looking further a field and combining seed collection as a homogenous mix. Avoid collecting from isolated plants and where possible collect from specimens at least 50-100m apart. Knowing the right time to collect seed from a particular species is an advantage in obtaining a viable seed resource. Please refer to the Guides and Model Code of Practice available on the Florabank website at http://www.florabank.org.au/default.asp?V_DOC_ID=755

Vegetation Communities

To collect seed from areas of known threatened, rare or endangered species and/or ecological communities a contractor must acquire Licence 132C granted by Dept of Environment & Heritage (NPWS) prior to collection. Clarence Landcare Inc. accepts no responsibility or liability for failure of contractor services to do so in any collection period of this project. You can find out everything you need to know about any threatened species and endangered communities in the Northern Rivers Region and NSW by going to the following website:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedSpeciesApp/AreaHabitatSearch.aspx>

Seed Collection Times

Knowing or observing when plants are likely to flower and set seed will allow collectors to plan ahead with site visits, travel and equipment. We can only provide a guide as to when this may occur as flowering although fairly consistent is influenced by environmental conditions and seasonal variances. A seed collector calendar guide will be available on our website soon however please contact Clarence Landcare office for current observations or to tell us about a seed resource location you are observing.

Seed Collection Methods

Each contractor will of course have their own safe working method for collecting seed, however all seed collected must be correctly recorded on the "Seed Collectors Form" provided to you at the end of this document. Where seed is collected from private properties, an additional form must be completed by the property owner and returned to Clarence Landcare Inc prior to collection.

All seed collected should be appropriately labelled, preferably in paper bags and then enclosed together with the Seed Collection Form. Label bag with seed collectors name, genus & species, seed count or weight (grams/kgs) date collected and location (GPS or other). No plants collected from etc. Generally, the more information we have the better.

The Seed Collectors Form is Appendix 1.

Return all seed collected and completed forms to Clarence Landcare Inc, PO Box 594 Grafton or in person to Suite 1/48 Prince Street Grafton NSW 2460.


We are taking expressions of interest from people who are interested in receiving Seed Collection Training. These workshops will be run throughout the project to support landholders, individuals and public land managers with knowledge and skills


The following appendices 1 & 2 is provided to assist with information collection for our recording of seed resource locations and distribution to biodiversity projects.

Disclaimer:

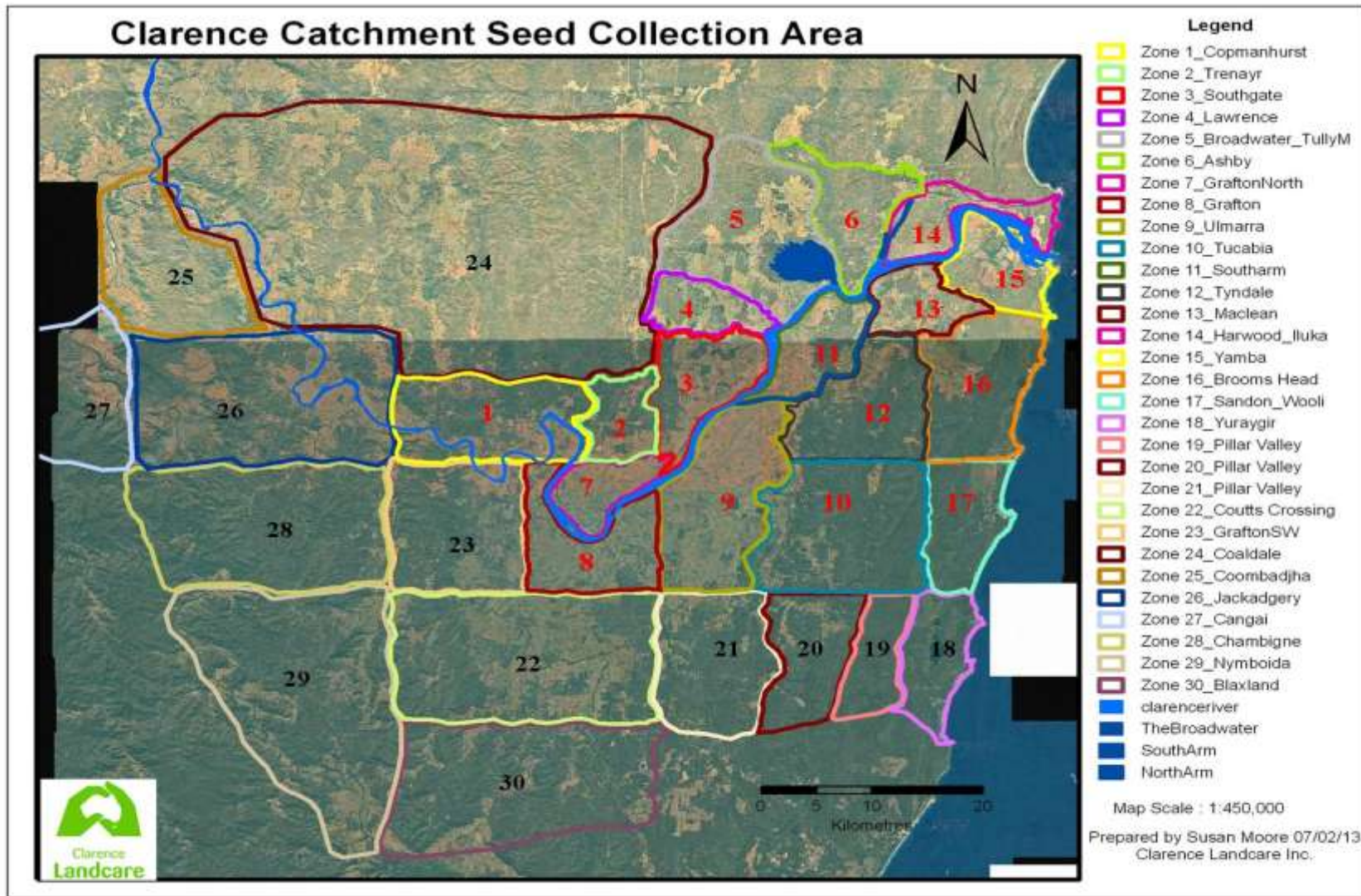
The members and staff of Clarence Landcare Inc. accept no responsibility or assume any liability for the use of the following material or content provided in these guidelines. They are intended to provide a guide only of seed collection for the purpose of protecting person, property and native flora and fauna in the Clarence Catchment.

Appendix 1. Seed Collection Form

		SEED COLLECTION DETAILS	
Collection ID (Office Use)		Date Collected	
Collectors Name		Property or Location	
GPS Location or Grid Reference		Landownership (circle one)	Private, Local govt, Roadside, NPWS
Genus & Species		Est. Size Collection Area (ha) or (m)	
Provenance		Est. No. of plants in collection area	
Vegetation Community Type (ie., description)		No. of plants collected from	
Drainage & slope aspect		Est. Plant Maturity (circle one)	Young / Mature / Over-Mature
Habitat (circle one)	Riparian / Wetland / Sclerophyll / Rainforest / Floodplain / Other	Seed Crop Phenology (circle one)	(Early/Peak/Late) (Light/Med/Heavy)
Photo taken for ID (circle one)	Yes No	Specimen obtained for ID (circle one)	Yes No
		Collection Time (estimate hours spent)	Qty Seed Collected grams/kg

		SEED COLLECTION DETAILS	
Collection ID (Office Use)		Date Collected	
Collectors Name		Property or Location	
GPS Location or Grid Reference		Landownership (circle one)	Private, Local govt, Roadside, NPWS
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Habitat (circle one)	Riparian / Wetland / Sclerophyll / Rainforest / Floodplain / Other	Seed Crop Phenology (circle one)	(Early/Peak/Late) (Light/Med/Heavy)
Photo taken for ID (circle one)	Yes No	Specimen obtained for ID (circle one)	Yes No
		Collection Time (estimate hours spent)	Qty Seed Collected grams/kg

Appendix 2 . Mapped guide to priority seed collection areas within floodplain context.



Red Zones Numbers = Priority Collection Zones Black Zone Numbers = Potential Collection Zones