



Limestone Coast Paddock Tree Project

The Limestone Coast Paddock Tree Project is continuing, to assist landholders with the often challenging task of establishing and/or preserving our valuable paddock trees, for the many benefits they provide to agriculture, our wildlife, landscapes and well-being.

Recent research has shown that paddock trees are declining in the south-east of South Australia and there is a lack of recruitment of a new generation.

This project is supported by Trees For Life (SA), through funding from the Limestone Coast Landscape Board, enabling those landholders wishing to create future generations of paddock trees across the south-east of South Australia, to plant and guard paddock tree seedlings, and preserve existing individual, or groups of paddock trees.

Trees For Life can provide seedlings, guards, and fencing materials to participating landholders.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who should apply?

Anyone who owns a property located within the gum woodland areas in the Limestone Coast region can apply.

To check if your property is located in an eligible area, please refer to the ranges outlined in the following fact sheets:

- SA Blue Gum: https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/landscape/images/Factsheet_Blue-Gum.pdf
- Grey Box: https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/landscape/images/GreyBox_Grassy_Woodlands.pdf
- Red Gum: https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/landscape/images/Factsheet_Red-Gum.pdf
- Stringybark: <https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/landscape/docs/Stringybark-Woodland-FactSheet.pdf>

What will it cost?

We will provide the seedlings and guards for new paddock trees, and fencing materials to be able to protect existing paddock trees.

Landholders taking part in the project may also be encouraged to use materials found on their property to develop creative solutions to guard trees where livestock pressure is higher.

The main costs to you will be the time to plant, protect and maintain your paddock trees. Out of pocket costs will be minimal.

Why should I participate?

Paddock trees are an icon of the Australian landscape and provide significant benefits to agriculture such as enriching the biodiversity on our farms and providing shade and shelter to livestock, they add value to our land and our region; they have a direct human well-being benefit, by connecting us to our natural world and retaining our much-loved south east landscape.

What will I need to do?

You will be expected to collect the seedlings and guard materials allocated to you from a collection location in the south-east of South Australia.

You will need to plant and guard your seedlings as soon as you receive your materials, generally before the onset of winter.

You must also be willing to provide care for your trees during the first few years of establishment to help them survive. This may include watering seedlings during hot and dry periods, controlling weeds, checking to make sure the guards are in place and replacing any seedlings which may not have survived.

When will I need to plant and guard my trees?

Prior to collecting your materials, you should plan where you will plant your trees.

You will need to plant and guard your trees in May/June. Each seedling should be planted and then guarded immediately afterwards, i.e. the same day.

How many trees will I be allocated to plant?

A minimum of 25 and a maximum of 100 trees per property will be allocated, generally determined at time of site visit.

We're encouraging each landholder to give consideration to planting the number of trees they can manage. On average, it will take two people one full day to plant and guard 20 paddock trees.

Will there be any assistance available for planting and guarding trees?

The assistance that will be available, will be via advice and guidance from a project staff member, starting from the initial site visit. You will be advised on the number of seedlings and guards allocated to you, the most suitable paddock tree species to plant and the guard type best suited to your property, taking into account your ability to undertake the planting and guarding within the short timeframe of the project.

What species of tree will be available, and can I choose where to plant them?

The seedlings available to landholders will be restricted to the following paddock tree species, determined by your paddock(s) location and where these species are known to naturally occur:

- Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*)
- SA Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon* spp.)
- Brown Stringybark (*Eucalyptus baxteri*)
- Desert Stringybark (*Eucalyptus arenacea*)
- Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*)

Other paddock tree species may be considered if the property is suitable. Landholders will be able to decide where to plant their paddock trees, with advice and guidance provided by a project staff member at a site visit.

It is recommended to space paddock trees at between 20-30 metres apart, away from each other, existing trees or other infrastructure, to allow them to grow into large trees providing better shade and shelter opportunities. If you do not have the required space available, you may not be eligible for this project.

What paddock tree guards will be available?

The number and type of guards offered will be determined on a paddock by paddock basis and assessed at each site visit according to:

- the ability of the guard to protect the seedling from damage by stock type
- landholders ability to plant/guard/monitor and maintain seedling within the timeframe of the project

The guards offered will be made of a sufficient grade mesh, anchored with droppers, however other alternative guard types or reinforcements may be suggested, using discarded materials found on landholders' properties or using other low-cost materials such as timber pallets, especially where livestock pressure may be higher.

An assessment sheet may be provided to landholders to fill in detailing the effectiveness of each guard type, to be returned to the project officer when complete

What support is available to protect remnant paddock trees?

Fencing materials will be supplied to a limited number of eligible landholders who wish to protect their remnant paddock trees from stock. Preference will be given to landholders who are looking to protect groups of paddock trees with the project also able to supply suitable understory species, in some cases, to complement the woodland type.

When do expressions of interest close?

Expressions of interest for the project will close on 20 November 2023.

How long will this project be running for?

The project is subject to funding each year, with all works to be completed within that financial year.

How do I register my interest?

If your property is located within the project area, landholders can fill out the expression of interest form on our website: treesforlife.org.au/paddock-tree-projects. You can also call Trees For Life on 08 8406 0500, or email SamanthaR@treesforlife.org.au to check your eligibility and have a copy of the form mailed to you.

Who can I contact for more information?

You can call Trees For Life on 08 8406 0500 or email SamanthaR@treesforlife.org.au.