

Toodyay Community Nursery

Notes from Bethan Lloyd for SWAN field day at Toodyay, 26 August 2017

The nursery is located at Toodyay Junction an area where many community groups have their premises in a secure area provided by the Shire of Toodyay. The sheds were built from a Lotterywest grant and our shade-house area from funds raised by the Seed Group over many years of selling plants to landholders.

All our members are volunteers and the Seed Group is a sub group of Toodyay Friends of the River. Although we charge for private landholders we provide free plants for community projects. We take applications for plants during late spring and seek information about soil type and planned use of plants in order to provide the most suitable species.

Through summer we collect seed and sow it in individual 25mm pots using the Men of the Trees base potting mix. During this period irrigation is on at least 3 times per day to make sure the potting mix does not dry out during the germination process. Some seeds such as acacias need hot water treatment and a few require smoke water to assist germination.

Once germination occurs we thin where necessary, prick out some species and fertilise with a native slow-release fertiliser. Watering is slowly reduced in autumn and shade cloth removed to harden off the plants around the end of April.

We grow *Eremophilas* from cuttings as they are difficult to grow from seed and for these we use some bottom heat pads in early spring and humid boxes later in the year. We use a combination of potting mix, sand, vermiculite and perlite for this and clonex rooting gel. Plants are distributed at end of May.

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