

*Practical information, resources and opportunities for
north-west Tasmanian farmers and agricultural service providers.*

**Welcome to the July 2026 edition of *Our Natural Advantage*,
Cradle Coast NRM's monthly climate-smart farming snapshot.**

The theme of this edition is:

Tree Planting

Planning on-farm projects

You may be seeing new tree planting projects popping up across the region right now. In Tasmania, Autumn through to early Spring can be the perfect time for tree planting. Rainfall creates softer, high-moisture soils perfect for root establishment, and there's just enough time before summer hits to allow seedlings to settle in and get ready to grow over the warmer months.

Thorough planning and preparation are key to successful planting, and this begins well before winter does. Read on to learn how to ensure your next planting creates a lasting impact.

Before you dream up a new project...

Don't forget, the best tree planting project is looking after the vegetation you already have. Before considering any new planting projects, think about the vegetation on your farm already and what you could do to improve it's quality. This could be weed control, maintaining or constructing a new fence, or some infill planting if things are starting to look sparse.

**Complete our north-west Tasmanian farmer and
agri-service provider survey for your chance to**

WIN a \$100 fuel voucher!

Last chance - prize drawn 13 July!



Take the survey

Planning starts early

Winter

Depending on your site and goals, there are a number of activities you will need to plan before you can begin planting. Create a plan in the months leading up to planting, and consider including the following preparation requirements in your timeline:

- Set your purpose: environmental plantings can serve a variety of purposes, from shelterbelts for shade and shelter through to dam protection plantings, riparian revegetation, agroforestry, and remnant vegetation enhancement. The purpose of your planting determines factors like the species of seedlings you'll need, how close you'll be planting them, how many you will need, and how you'll need to prepare and manage them.
- Plan your planting area: Ensure your area is best suited to your purpose, and plan how large it'll be. Consider wind direction, soil type, connection to existing vegetation, and the existing productivity of your proposed space. Measure your site and calculate the area so you can determine how many plants you will need to order, ensuring you have made your area large enough for multiple rows of trees to maximise co-benefits.

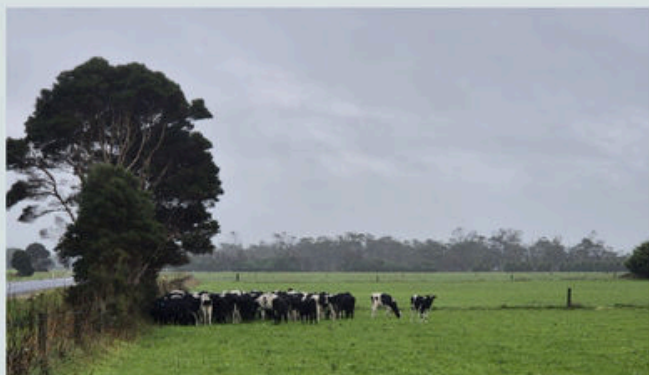


Image: Calves shelter from the weather next to a stand of Tea Trees along a fenceline, showing how valuable even a small piece of on-farm vegetation can be.

Spring

- Ordering seedlings and supplies: After selecting your species mix ([check out this handy guide](#)) and calculating how many species you'll need, contact a local specialist nursery in Spring to place your order for the following winter. A variety of tree guard and stake types are also available and will need to be ordered in advance as well.
- Begin site preparation: Depending on your situation, you may need to prepare your site through actions like grazing, weed control, burning, fertilizing and more, which can commence in Spring.



Image: Seedlings growing in a King Island nursery.

Summer

- Fencing: Once weed control has occurred, fence off the area you plan to plant, considering whether you will need to access the area with machinery in the future or if wildlife proof fencing is needed.
- Continue with other site preparation needs as above.

Autumn/winter:

The hard work has only just begun, as it's now time to get planting! If autumn has brought good rainfall, planting can commence – otherwise, wait until winter or even early spring to ensure proper soil moisture before planting.

Check out page 15 of [this Landcare Tasmania guide](#) for more information on how to plant seedlings.



Image: Tree planting in action.

Protect your work

The work doesn't stop once your trees are in the ground.

Over the following months and years, you'll need to check up on them:

- Ensure the trees are receiving adequate water. If rainfall has been low, irrigating or hand watering the area may be necessary until the trees are better established.
- Check up on your tree guards. Make sure your investment is protected properly by replacing any snapped stakes, replacing any missing guards, and removing the guards once the trees are well established.
- Monitor grazing pressure. Hopefully your thorough preparation has prevented excessive grazing, but dry times over summer may draw wildlife to your planting area. Take action as needed to prevent your new seedlings from becoming a marsupial snack.
- Control weeds. As with the rest of your farm, monitor weed growth and use control methods to keep growth low, especially while trees are establishing. Hand pulling is ideal for small areas, and slashing or mowing can work well to keep pasture growth from overwhelming new seedlings. Take care with herbicides, using methods like spot spraying to achieve greater precision and to avoid affecting seedlings.



Photo: From Tasmanian Country, Farmer Perina Kentish from Wynyard and Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator Tom O'Malley

Did you see one of the recent news stories of our Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator Tom O'Malley's Dung Beetle exchange program? For the last 5 years Tom has been exchanging dung beetles with a South Australian farmer with the aim to increase calendar coverage of dung beetles in livestock-dense areas during the winter.

Read the ABC article here: [Dung beetle exchange between South Australia and Tasmania ensures manure is managed all year round - ABC News](#)

For more information on the Dung Beetles we have in our region, the work that they do for north-west farmers and how to care for them on your property, read our Dung Beetle Factsheet: [Dung Beetles of Tasmania](#)



Resources

Guide to planting trees on your farm by Meat and Livestock Australia: Have a read of this quick, one-page guide [here](#).

Trees on Farms e-learning course by meat and Livestock Australia: Do you prefer to learn through a self-paced, online course? Check out MLA's Trees on Farms free course [here](#).

Local Planting Guides by Cradle Coast NRM: Learn what plant species are endemic to your local area through this [guide](#).

Revegetation Projects Best Practice Guide for Tasmania by Landcare Tasmania: This PDF details everything from planning to planting and beyond, tailored to Tasmanian farms. Have a read [here](#).

Native Shelterbelts for North West Tasmania: Learn everything you need to know about shelterbelts in [this comprehensive manual](#).

Events

Dairy HIGH2 Roadshow North West

Hosted by: TIA

Location: Edith Creek

Date: 2 July, 10:30AM to 2:00 PM

Find out more and register [here](#).

Webinar: July Seasonal Update

Hosted by: Ag Logic & TAS Farm Innovation

Hub with guest speaker Jason Lynch

Date: 3 July, 1:00PM to 1:45PM

Location: Online webinar

[Register here](#) to learn more about the future forecast for Tasmania.

Dairy Convo - Ask Us Anything series:

Join Soils for Life and guest speakers for four free online webinars. All webinars start at 12:00 PM AEST. Register [here](#)!

- Building Resilience Through Soil Health in Dairy Systems with Chris Eggert: 6 July
- Starting Out with Foliars and Managing Transitions with John Moore: 7 July
- Pasture Nutrition with Emily House: 13 July
- Multi-species Pasture Establishment and Grazing with Jade Killoran: 15 July

Cross Industry Weeds Forum

This event will focus on resistant ryegrass in vegetable cropping.

Hosted by: VEGNet Tasmania

Date: 29 July, 8:45AM to 1:30PM

Location: TBA - a farm in NW Tasmania

Places are limited - [register here](#)!



Opportunities

Soil Health Training and Discussion Group for Dairy Farmers - Expressions of Interest

EOI's are now open for this new program by Soils for Life and Cradle Coast NRM, delivering training, consultant support and subsidised plant and soil testing to participants.

[Submit your EOI here](#).

Farm Business Resilience Program 2 - Expressions of Interest now open!

This popular program has been extended. Visit the NRE Tasmania [website](#) to express your interest in participating.

Emerge: Supporting Farmer Led Groups

Are you looking to start, grow or reconnect a farmer group? This new program could support you!

Hosted by: RMCG

Fill out this [form](#) to receive a call back.

Missed a previous edition? Browse other topics from *Our Natural Advantage* below.

View past editions

If you would like to share a relevant resource, event or opportunity, please email landprogram@cradlecoast.com by 22 July to be considered for the next edition.

Edition 15

1 July 2026



This project is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program and delivered by Cradle Coast Authority, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel.

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