

Western Australia tree planting sets record

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measures, devised by CALM, means farmers continue to own and operate their farm while gaining all the landcare benefits of tree crops, as well as up to \$200 per hectare year in lease and other payments.

"However, what has been particularly encouraging is that our farm tree crops are not confined to species such as bluegums and pines that grow in the higher rainfall areas," Dr Shea said.

"Oil producing mallees are having a big impact in the Wheatbelt where farmers know they have

to plant deep-rooting species that will act as pumps to lower the water table and help

combat salinity.

"These mallees have a great potential to offer an economic return

through oil production, which will help offset the establishment costs," Dr Shea said.



CALM Manjimup Research staff Lee Fontanini (left) and Maria Mason (right) with CALM scientists Trevor Butcher and Liz Barbour at the Department's Plant Propagation Centre in Manjimup.

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Division, Cygnet Hall,
Y, Western Australia 6009
(09) 389 8296

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THIS winter will see record numbers of commercial trees planted in rural Western Australia.

CALM will plant more than 21 million seedlings in share farming partnerships and in its own plantation and native forest operations.

This is on top of the millions of seedlings that will be grown on farms using seed from CALM's stockpile of more than 200 million native seeds.

CALM Executive Director Syd Shea said the number of seedlings was more than 10 per cent above the previous record number supplied from CALM's nurseries in Manjimup and Narrogin.

Dr Shea said CALM's elite Western Blue Gums and Tasmanian bluegums made up almost half the number of seedlings produced by CALM this year.

"The growth of the State's

bluegum plantations has been phenomenal and highlights the big inroads that have been made in the past few years in revolutionising the way in which we are developing the State's agroforestry industry," he said.

"This year, CALM will supply 6.6 million Tasmanian bluegum seedlings and three million Western Blue Gums for planting out under share-farming agreements as well as in private plantings.

"Of these, one million Tasmanian bluegums and 100,000 Western Blue Gums will be exported to South Australia and Victoria. This reflects the premier position Western Australia has established in researching and developing this species as the major farm tree crop."

Other seedlings produced at the nurseries are karri (4 million), pine (3.2 million radiata and 1.4 million

pinaster) and oil mallees (2.3 million). A further 1.2 million oil mallees will be produced on contract for CALM by private nurseries at Canna, Kalannie, Cunderdin, Narembeen and Esperance.

CALM also will produce 800,000 seedlings of mixed hardwood species. The three tonnes of native seeds held in the seed store cover more than 450 species.

Dr Shea said that in the past, the biggest problem facing agroforestry had been finance.

However, CALM initiatives had provided that finance through attracting \$150 million in overseas investment over 10 years. Six major overseas companies now were involved in three bluegum sharefarming arrangements at Albany and in the Wellington catchment around Collie.

These sharefarming arrange-

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