

REVEGETATION

TIME TO PLANT A FUTURE

CALM's Narrogin Plant Nursery has been operating since 1955, propagating seedlings for the protection, conservation and restoration of Western Australia's bio-diversity. Some 135 WA endemic species including shrubs and trees for ornamental and revegetation plantings are propagated. They are sold in trays of 60 seedlings. A new line introduced this year is the pre-mixed 'Biodiversity' and 'Food For Fauna' trays.

The Biodiversity trays consist of a mixture of species designed to replicate particular sites such as 'Wandoo woodlands', 'gravel ridges' and 'granite outcrops', to name just a few. The number of species and quantities of each included in the Biodiversity trays have been selected to closely reflect the balance that nature intended.

Included in the Food For Fauna trays are a mixture of species that

grow to less than 3 metres high and flower at various times of the year. Currently, there are two types of these trays, one specifically for the wheatbelt and the other for the lower south west coast. The Food For Fauna trays can be included with other species in revegetation projects or planted around the house and sheds to attract fauna to the garden.

It is recommended that orders be placed before 1st Nov. to avoid disappointment. Included in the seedling price is free delivery to a metropolitan CALM office or a shire locality in country areas.

You may place an order for seedlings or obtain further information by visiting http://www.calm.wa.gov.au/projects/plantations_nursery_narrogin_splash.html or telephoning the Nursery Officer, Tricia Sprigg, on 9881 9212.

SEEDBALLS

THE Calingiri Primary School Seedball project was started in 2002. The idea came from Californian eco-artist Kathryn Miller. The school children make balls of clay and local soil containing seeds of local provenance native plants.

The seedballs are excellent for those hard-to-reach areas where you can't get in to rip and mound. The seedballs can be thrown into the air to give a natural pattern when they germinate. (Remember that prior weed control is vital.) The timing of germination will be when the conditions are right, which may not be for a season or so. The seedballs also represent an economic saving as seed is much cheaper than seedlings and you get the advantage of having a mixture of plants and so is more like the remnant bush. Because of the clay surrounding the seeds there is some protection from insects and so increase the likelihood of good germination.

The Calingiri/New Norcia LCDC has secured funds from Envirofund to continue the project this year.