

# Gegedzerick Open Day



LANDCARE LEADS THE WAY  
Sat, 25 March 2023

## Station 2 - Direct seeding by machine (Greening Australia)

Direct seeding by machine is a very attractive way of revegetating large areas cheaply. However, the outcomes are rather hit-and-miss on the Monaro owing to the hard soils and extremes in weather. Based on the handful of trials in this area it appears that it takes years before the seeds germinate and the effort comes to fruition.



On December 22, 2021, we used the Greening Australia direct seed machine with an experienced operator to drill mixed native seed into approx 2.8 ha (or approx 5 km of lines) at a rate of 0.5 kg of seed/ha.

The direct seeder boxes held a total of 300g of coarse seed from shrubs (33% each of *Acacia melanoxylon* collected from Cotter, *A. dealbata* collected from Bredbo, and *Dodonaea viscosa* subsp. *angustissima* collected from Wodonga) and 1 kg of Eucalyptus seed (52% of *E. viminalis* collected from Jerangle and 48% of *E. pauciflora* collected from Jindabyne).

Because of the high soil moisture, we did not pre-apply any weed spray in most of the area (orange lines). However, we undertook a smaller chemical spray trial inside the smaller 60m x 60m polygon in the south east corner as shown in the map below. There, we sprayed three lines with glyphosate at 10ml/L (blue flags), another three lines with glyphosate plus flupropanate at 3ml/L (red flags) and the remainder with water (white flags). Spray was applied to the 'top side' of the seeding row (where the grass was intact, as opposed to the bottom side which had the turnover from the direct seeder's plough share). We observed a flourishing of broad-leaf weeds inside the seed bed in the sprayed lines but not the unsprayed lines. This indicated to us that spraying on the side of each seed row removed the competition from grasses acting within the seed row thus allowing ungerminated weeds to emerge within the seed bed. We conclude that spraying grasses beside the seed rows generates more weeds, at least in the short-term.

