



Project Snapshot

Land Manager's Name:	Leon Sharman
Property Size:	10,000 hectares
Location:	Cadoux
Annual Rainfall (mm):	320 mm
Enterprise Mix:	Sheep and cropping
Soil Types/Vegetation Types:	Sandy Loam to Clay

Key Messages

- Planting trees is just part of the farming practice.
- Ensure that livestock cannot access the site.
- When planting the site consider the future ease of access across the site.
- Planting trees does work in stopping the spread of salinity!

The Story so far

Leon grew up on the family farm east of Cadoux and can remember planting trees each year with his father since he was ten. Twenty years ago two of the Sharman's best paddocks developed salt lakes on them. Leon helped his father to plant trees on the remaining areas of the paddocks that were not inundated with saline water.

Over the years the trees have worked at reclaiming salt land and each year more are planting where it had been previously too saline to do so. Now the salt lakes have gone, and on the areas that were too saline for trees, saltbush has established. "Although it's required some persistence our efforts have proved that you can stop the spread of salinity," Leon said.

Oil mallees for salinity control

With experience restoring landscapes the Sharman's also have another landcare project they have been working on since 1999. "Addressing environmental issues and maintaining farm productivity is important to us", Leon mentioned. "This means applying best practice across the entirety of the farm". The site is situated in a valley with loamy soil and encompasses an evaporation dam. In 1999 the Sharman's planted 8ha of native tree seedlings and a block of oil mallees (*Eucalyptus loxophleba lissophloia*) along the west side of the site to tackle rising salt. They also planted a windbreak on the east side of a yellow sandy hill to protect the hill from wind erosion.

The last time they planted trees at the site was in 2009 when they added approximately 600 oil mallees along the valley floor. This planting stopped the spread of salt to the west, but not to the east. As a precaution Leon fenced off 12ha along the eastern side of the site in 2011 to prevent the sheep from accessing the site and degrading it further. To assist him complete the project Leon then applied for funding he saw promoted through Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management. Though Leon has always helped his father with tree planting on the property this is the first project that Leon has

organised himself. "It's all about doing something so my kids can have a future in farming," Leon stated.

Having been successful with the funding Leon slashed the summer grasses early in 2012 before spraying the site with glyphosate in early July. The site was then planted to oil mallees in mid-July using the older style Chatfield's Tree Planter. Leon mentioned, "I prefer not to use the scalper blade on the tree planter as it makes it too rough to check the site in later years".

Caring for the environment

Leon and his family will continue to plant trees on the property having seen the long term effects that oil mallees can have on preventing the spread of salt. He is not considering harvesting his oil mallee plantings however. He explained, "It's part of the farming practice now but it's just there to stop the salt and that's all we care about". Leon is now considering including saltbush into the farm's planting program to be used as fodder for his livestock.

Acknowledgements

Leon Sharman - Farmer

Tracey Hobbs - Project Support Officer for Wheatbelt NRM's Soil Conservation Incentive Program.

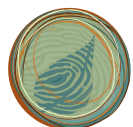
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