

KATOOMBA NATIVE PLANT NURSERY FACT SHEET

WILDPLANT SITE ASSESSMENT & RESCUE POLICY



Site assessment

Many factors determine the suitability of a block for rescue. Not all blocks are bush blocks. Many are subdivided from established exotic gardens or cleared land.

Others have been used for grazing horses or cattle and will have no wildplants. Some blocks are too steep or rocky to be suitable for a rescue. A block may be so thick with large, native shrubs that it is unsuitable for rescue of whole wildplants but is suitable for the collection of seeds, cuttings or brushmatting material.

Characteristics of a good rescue site are:

- Flat or gently sloping block
- Absence of weeds or low-level infestation
- Damp, sandy soil
- Absence of rocks
- Presence of understorey species, especially those up to 50cm

Blocks that have been previously slashed, cleared or burnt are often the best as they produce an abundance of young, small, easily rescued wildplants and, a variety of interesting, saleable wildplants.

Rescue policy

Rescues will only be carried out on the areas affected by the building construction. This includes driveways and access routes, unless otherwise agreed to by the owner and a WRS coordinator.

Wildplant Rescue Service will only carry out a rescue on a block of land when the following criteria have been met:



- A Building Application for the site has been lodged with the local council
- The permission of the landowner has been obtained
- A site inspection carried out on the block by the rescue coordinator has assessed the site as being suitable for rescue.

Once a plant has been tagged or identified for rescue, it can be removed and placed into the pots provided.

Mulch is collected from as near to the original plant site as possible and placed in the base of the pot to assist with drainage.

The plant is carefully lifted out of the ground using a round trenching shovel.

Gently the plant is placed straight into a pot filling in around the side with more soil if necessary.

A thick layer of mulch is placed around the potted plant which will prevent it from drying out during storage, as well as providing nutrients for the soil.

The pots are placed in a central, shaded spot and watered immediately.

At this point the plants are labelled with the name, date, and location of the rescue.

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Plant, seed or cutting?

As a rule, small, herbaceous, low-growing wildplants have the highest survival or success rate when transplanted into pots.

There is little point in digging up wildplants that produce copious amounts of easily collected seeds and/or are readily propagated from seed, such as Eucalyptus, Acacia, Leptospermum and Allocasuarina species.

Wildplant Rescue concentrates on rescuing groundcovers and low-growing wildplants that are unlikely to be propagated from seed, either because of low seed numbers, difficulty in finding seed or a low strike rate with germination.

Small, compact wildplants look better in a pot and are more likely to survive than straggly, woody plants. Understorey species are often not sold by commercial nurseries and therefore are only available from rescued sources.

Obtaining cuttings

Cuttings are obtained at most times of the year but are generally only used for plants difficult to propagate from seed. Cuttings are also preferably used to propagate those plants, which tend to hybridize e.g., Persoonia and Grevillea species.