

Post bushfire weeds may kill your livestock that survived the fire!

Once a bushfire has been through your property and you have managed the massive initial problems of containing and caring for your livestock, it is essential you then plan a management strategy for the next few years.

In particular, how you are going to deal with the inevitable weed problem after the next major rain. The fire may have killed any perennial pasture you had, and as a consequence you are likely to end up with a paddock of weeds.

Do not put your livestock into any paddock until you have identified what is growing and you have determined it is safe for your stock to eat. Some horses that managed to survive the Canberra bushfires subsequently died from Patterson's curse (Salvation Jane) poisoning as that was what initially germinated in their paddocks after the rain.

A good strategy is to keep your livestock in a small sacrifice paddock or yarding and hand feed, until you are sure your pasture paddocks are safe. This will also contain to a small area, any weed seeds that may have come in with bought or donated hay.

If you need to re-sow, then planning becomes critical if the re-sowing is to be successful. Soil test the paddocks as soon as you can, then apply fertiliser or lime if required. Secondly, manage any weed germinations by spraying or cultivating. Once the paddock is seeded, frequently observe it for early signs of insect damage or weed germinations that may threaten your new pasture.

When your new pasture reaches 10 -15 cm quickly graze it down to 5cm (preferably with sheep) or just slash it. The eating or slashing of the pasture will encourage it to thicken. Once the pasture is down to 5cm, let it regrow to at least 10cm before putting horses on to graze again. Continually grazing a new pasture is one of the quickest ways to destroy it.



HorsesLandWater adapted for Tropic & Arid Zones

Horse owners in Australia's arid & tropic areas are set to benefit from the HorsesLandWater resources (Action Planner & Management Guideline) being adapted to suit the regional conditions. The resources are available for free from www.horseslandwater.com

Enquiries to horsesa@horsesa.asn.au

Photo: "Izadorah & filly" courtesy of Catherine Hollingsworth, Moonaree Station, near Port Augusta SA.



Peri-Urban Project CD available now

Contents include national versions of the HorsesLandWater Action Planner, Management Guidelines, Horse Health Fact Sheets and horse property catchment poster as part of 35 different resources for you or your organisation to use to share the horse keeping, horse health and good land management practices message. Cost \$27.50 inc GST from Horse SA, email horsesa@horsesa.asn.au or download an order form from www.horseslandwater.com

Victorian bushfires

For post-fire horse keeping and land management information, including upcoming workshops, contact Louise Scott: Louise.Scott@dpi.vic.gov.au

Ethical Equitation – a sustainable approach

5th International Equitation Science Conference

Sydney, Australia July 12-14th 2009

Open to horse owners and scientists

<http://www.equitationscience.com/Sydney2009.html>



HorsesLandWater

Horse wash

A horse wash area can either be indoors or outdoors. On a small horse property it makes sense to have the horse wash area as a combined tying area/horse wash that can also be used by the farrier and for any vet work. The size can range for 3.6m x 2m to 3.6m x 3.6m (a full stable size). The flooring should either be rough textured rubber (smooth rubber gets very slippery when wet) or rough finished/patterned concrete. Another option is smooth rounded gravel which water will drain through.

The hose can be on a swinging arm so that washing both sides of the horse is easily done without having to drag the hose over the floor. A spray attachment on the end of the hose reduces water consumption and is easier to use.

In an indoor horse wash shelves for storing washing products and tools can be fitted. This needs to either be recessed or in a corner to reduce the chances of a horse banging it with its head. A sink is a very useful addition for washing horse gear. Hot water is another bonus. For this a domestic hot water system can be fitted.

Water from a horse wash should drain into either a septic or grey water system. On a small horse property the domestic system may be able to cope with the water from the horse wash depending on how many horses you plan to wash and how often. If you only occasionally wash horses, do this on a good grass footing, so that water will be well filtered.

Failure to install infrastructure for the washing of horses can lead to mud, erosion and contaminated water entering watercourses.



Coming Events

April 23: Veterinary talk. Dr Harry Frauenfelder 7.30 pm FREE, Hahndorf, SA, horsesa@horsesa.asn.au, 0402 488 306

April 15 -18: A range of horse keeping discussion forums, for horse owners and government representatives, Darwin, NT, horsesa@horsesa.asn.au

April 18: Field Day. Byford. WA Nikki, 0412 777 377

April 14: Managing Horses on Small Properties, Caboolture, QLD, jane@equiculture.com.au

May 2: Horse property management plans, Yarra Ranges, VIC, (03) 9294 6184, k.jacobson@yarraranges.vic.gov.au

May 3: Field Day, Chidlow WA Nikki, 0412 777 377

May 3: Horse property management plans, Near Whittlesea, VIC, (03) 59625203, bindi@mooramooraa.org.au

May 4: Pasture management on horse properties – for Ag. consultants, near Whittlesea, VIC, (03) 59625203, bindi@mooramooraa.org.au

May 5: Managing Horses on Small Properties, Manningham City Council, VIC, Nigel Philpot (03) 9840 9173

May 6: Horse property P.D. for NRM Managers, near Manningham, VIC, (03) 59625203, bindi@mooramooraa.org.au

May 11: Yackandanda VIC, jane@equiculture.com.au

May 15: Sarina QLD, jane@equiculture.com.au

May 16: Mackay QLD, jane@equiculture.com.au

May 17: Whitsundays QLD, jane@equiculture.com.au

May 17: Upper Swan WA Nikki, 0412 777 377

May 18: Managing Horses on Small Properties, Beaudesert, QLD, Brad Ricard, 0407 001 916

May 27: Managing Horses on Small Properties, Boonah, QLD, Steve Lyngcoln, 0438 008 668

Early June (date to be confirmed) 2-3 workshops in Gosford/ Scone area, jane@equiculture.com.au

This newsletter is a key activity of the project 'Managing Horse Grazing Pressures in Peri-Urban Environments' and has been funded by a Landcare Sustainable Practices grant under the Australian Government's Caring for our Country.

www.horseslandwater.com

Please promote through your club or horse-related business website, noticeboard or newsletter.

HorsesLandWater Corporate and Community Programs: HorsesLandWater staff and volunteers are able to offer a range of programs tailored to suit horse keepers in your local area. Specialising in capacity building programs which engage the key stakeholders – horse owners, land management technical advisors, government agencies at all levels, research and educational institutions. The team also has experience in resource development, educational programs and related activities. Please contact Julie Fiedler – email horsesa@horsesa.asn.au or phone 618 8294 2460

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