

Benefits of 'best practice' land management for your equine property

- Healthy horses
- Reduced fire risk
- Water wise
- Healthy, diverse year-round pasture
- Reduced supplementary feeding
- Improved soil health
- Dust control
- Increased property values
- Enhanced environmental outcomes
- Reduced property temperatures through shade

Sustainable management practices and your local government

Your local government may have specific requirements applicable to horse properties in your area, including creation of an equine management plan.

The table of management options overleaf may be useful when producing an equine management plan, as well as managing your property to it's full potential.



Additional Resources

- Horse Land and Water - Management guidelines www.horseslandwater.com
- Department of Agriculture and Food (WA) - Stocking rate guidelines for rural small holdings www.archive.agric.wa.gov.au
- Department of Agriculture and Food (WA) - Small Landholder Information Service www.agric.wa.gov.au/small_landholder
- Your local government office for specific management requirements
- 'Paddock Paradise' - A guide to natural horse boarding by Jaime Jackson, published 2007
- 'Equicentral' system. Equiculture website www.equiculture.com.au
- SJ Equine Landcare Group www.facebook.com/EquineLandcare



Contact us or drop in

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EQUINE LANDCARE



Sustainable land management of horse properties



Why Sustainable Management?

A sustainable horse property has minimum impact on the surrounding environment and any impact should aim to enhance rather than be detrimental.

This includes protecting waterways, flora and fauna, increasing biodiversity and increasing habitat for native wildlife.

Adopting 'best practice' has many benefits leading to healthier horses, a diverse and productive pasture, increasing your property's aesthetics as well as supporting the local environment.

Protecting the soil resource is also vital and this is connected to the maintenance of year round cover in the context of pasture as well as native vegetation.

The natural environment can also benefit your horses, providing shade and shelter, soil protection, pest control, water purification and the regulation of daily temperature extremes.



Management Practice	Information
Pasture	Everyone wants that beautiful year round pasture for their horses. A healthy pasture is balanced in perennial and annual species, which give year round coverage. Managing your pasture starts with soil amendments, species choice, irrigation and ends in paddock rotation and stabling, which provides the grass with rest periods. Some follow full paddock management systems such as the Paddock Paradise and the Equicentral Systems that naturally reduce time on pasture and encourages horse movement (see additional resources)
Stocking rates	A stocking rate is the amount of stock your property can support without causing environmental degradation and is measured in the Dry Sheep Equivalent or DSE. Overstocking is the most common cause of degradation on land holdings. Your local government will follow a stocking rate applicable to your local area depending on local conditions. Management practises such as stabling horses, pasture irrigation and supplementary feeding can increase the stocking rate of your property.
Weeds	Some weeds can be beneficial to horses in small doses, but most are unwelcome and hinder the establishment of pasture. Most weeds have specific control techniques. Correctly identifying the weeds on your property is the first step to management, control and eradication.
Fire	Creating fire zones on your property can mean all the difference in a fire emergency. Reducing fuel loads in a 20m radius around your house and stables as well as keeping the property tidy from fallen branches and leaves can reduce your fire risk. Have an emergency plan in place including an evacuation plan detailing where and when you will move your horses and other pets in an emergency.
Pests	Keeping pests down will increase the overall health and resilience of your property. Rats and mice can increase the risk of snakes as well as contaminate your feed. Insects can damage pasture and cause illness. Beware of incoming feed, as it is a common source of unwanted pests.
Soil	It is so important to begin on the right track when dealing with soils. Soil test kits are easily sourced and results will allow you to add only what your soils needs. Knowing the type of soils you have on your property will shape the management options you have.
Wind Breaks	Wind breaks can protect your paddocks from wind, weeds and erosion. They can also act as a nature corridor encouraging the movement of native animals through fragmented landscapes. Planting native species in your wind break can attract native birds and mammals on your property, which in turn help to reduce unwanted pests.
Water	There are different watering rules if you rely on rainwater, scheme water or a bore on your property. Good pasture and soil management will help you to reduce your irrigation needs.
Fencing	Sensitive environmental areas on your property should be fenced off from stock to reduce degradation. Try revegetating natural areas with native plants, they can provide a wind break, purify your water and encourage native animals. When planning your paddock access also consider the use of 12ft gates, important for machinery and emergency vehicle access .