



Reitz Tree Care cc

2009/041429/23

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Plett Solar Beach Group

Group scientific authorities to endorse

After the fire

- A. Old Acacia cyclops rarely coppices after fire...so don't pull it out by roots unnecessarily. Only cut down A.cyclops plants within urban yards.
- B. Do not walk over, drive on or disturb in any way the natural dune areas.
- C. Fire has a transforming effect and results in huge release of nutritional energy. Ash does not need to be cleared away. It will blow around but it is not 'dirty' and is a natural fertiliser. It should be tolerated until it is washed away by rain or naturally disappears.

Post fire activities should be kept to a minimum. It is suggested that very little activity take place after the fire and a wait and see approach is advised.

Root systems, moss and lichens occur under dune vegetation and this dune stabilising plant material is mostly at a fibrous level of unicellular thickness, usually invisible to most eyes. This is under the ash and any disturbance of the burnt area will result in existing root systems and microsystems being damaged. This will lead to wind erosion. The ash which is beneficial to plant growth will move with a bit of rain but will settle in the dune slacks and will encourage dune thicket revival.

As mentioned, there will be a release of nutritional energy after the fire.

Dunes do not erode by water, being naturally very porous.

Burnt trees which are still standing will create wind breaks which 'collect' particulate matter out the air and a degree of shade for the understorey microclimate. They also enable vines that form such an integral part of dune vegetation (*Rhoicissus* spp.) to climb and advance the evolution of these microclimates. The contrast of burnt vegetation with new burgeoning green growth can be charming in its character once one has considered its value within the above-mentioned process.