



Reitz Tree Care cc

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Charles Reitz

cell: +27(0)82 424 0055

email: charles@reitztreecare.co.za

web: www.reitztreecare.blogspot.com

PO Box 221

Plettenberg Bay 6600

Insights from RTC on post fire activity in the burnt landscape

The general trend to 'rehabilitate the natural landscape' after fire raises the following concerns:

1. Mechanical disturbance (such as walking) of previously undisturbed zones. This is one way to introduce alien plant species. Where alien plant seed occurs, germination takes place to a greater degree after surface disturbance such as trampling, pulling weeds or planting/cultivating.
2. Potential damage to extensive soil stabilizing Bryophytic and Mycorrhizal networks across the now accessible landscape whilst in it's exposed state.
3. Cutting down of 'bush' (in particular *Searsia lucida*) that has visibly brown leaves due to the fire's heat. This is merely scorched and remains unburnt. Birds will still benefit from these potential refuge 'pockets' and these plants could coppice at a higher point on their stems.

I urge you to remain patient and avoid haphazardly trying to 'rehabilitate the damaged landscape' outside of your regular gardening zone/property.

Imagine the microscopic world of underground root zones accounts for say 50% of the whole living plant material kingdom. This zone would remain largely unaffected even after fire.

Presume that the landscape is intact with only the surface layers burnt and transformed.

In a relatively short time above ground plant material will manifest itself cell by living cell in a wave of proportionate revival.

Effective, unobtrusive action aimed at alien seedling control needs ample discussion to arrive at an intelligent solution. Walking around looking for seedlings will cause unnecessary damage. This action could take place once the natural bush, ground covers and the infinite interactive dance of chemistry have had a chance at recapturing their niche and are visibly growing.

These insights do not apply to previously disturbed/alien infested areas.