

The planting of a variety of mallee species provides the opportunity for a commercial tree crop to be established on farmland. In addition the use of a perennial crop such as oil mallees will help address the problems of rising watertables – the cause of the rapidly expanding salinity problem within the wheatbelt agricultural regions. The integration of mallees into farming systems, either in belts or as strategically located blocks, ensures maximum impact in reducing groundwater re-charge as well as providing a range of soil and nature conservation benefits.

Mallees have the potential to yield a wide range of products in association with their environmental benefits. These include:

- **Eucalyptus oil** – for use in industrial solvents, fuel additives and specialized cleaning products. Presently, most widely used within the pharmaceutical industry.
- **Activated Carbon** – Used primarily within the gold industry and for water purification.
- **Wood composites** – such products include Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF), cement wood products and particle board.
- **Biomass Fuel** – Using mallee biomass as a renewable resource to produce electricity.
- **Liquid fuel** – Production of ethanol from mallee biomass.
- **Carbon sinks** – Planting of mallees to absorb and store carbon based pollutants from the production of Greenhouse gas emissions.

The development of the Mallee Cropping Code of Practice (Western Australia) is a commitment of all involved in the industry, whether they be growers, processors, harvesters or haulers, to use '**best practices**' in carrying out all operations associated with mallee plantings. An outcome of such practices is the ongoing improvement of management practices, particularly relating to the environment. This 'Fact Sheet' series provides a series of instructions to all members of the industry to promote the voluntary use of best practice methods for the mallee industry.

Fact sheets in the series include:

- Planning and site selection
- Site Establishment
- Weed control
- Planting
- Ongoing Management

So what is Best Practice and how is it achieved?

Put simply, Best Practice is the best way of carrying out a particular task for a given site;

It is:

- It is something which is not static ie. one method does not suit every situation but evolves through increased knowledge, improved technology and changing objectives;
- Implemented by everyone involved to carrying out all tasks to the best of their ability; and
- Implies a level of ongoing improvement which is both ecologically and commercially sustainable.

For more information contact the Oil Mallee Association on 1800 625 511 or email info@oilmallee.com.au

