BIOACTIVE LEPTOSPERMUM FOR GIPPSLAND

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Grand Ridge Propagation
WHO ARE WE?

• Grand Ridge Propagation nursery
• Based at Seaview, south of Warragul
• We have sheep, cattle, a nursery and more recently a bee hive (or 2)
• 2017 production about 120,000 native seedlings, planting about 30,000
Which species have potential for Gippsland?

Leptospermum scoparium (Manuka)
• Grows 3-5m
• Flowers November/December
• Seed sourced from New Zealand’s North and South islands from wild populations producing MGO 300 to 500 honey
Leptospermum polygalifolium ssp polygalifolium
(Jelly Bush)

• Grows 3-7m
• Flowers November/December
• Seed sourced from southern NSW
Leptospermum lanigerum  
(Woolly tea tree)

• Grows 3-7m
• Flowers October/November
• Seed sourced locally (test results to come)
• Tolerates extremely wet and boggy conditions
Leptospermum continentale
(Prickly tea tree)

• Grows 3-5m
• Flowers January/February
• Seed sourced locally (test results to come)
Some of the key factors for success

• Level of genetic bioactivity of the seedlings
• Nectar yield-masterive flower production
• Plant density
• Principal nectar source for foraging bees
Planting densities for Gippsland

What is your end goal?

• WINDBREAKS
• Tea tree only plant 2m apart
• Mix species winbreaks (tea tree, eucalypts etc) plant 3m apart

• PLANTATIONS
• Grazing sheep or slashing grass plant 5 to 6m apart or 400 to 300 plants/ha
• Full coverage of site plant 2 to 3m apart or 2500 to 1150 plants/ha
HONEY!
• Takes 12 to 18 months to reach peak bioactivity
• Can be difficult to extract, could have implications for flow hives?
• Potential yields up to 40kg/hive with 1 to 4 hives/ha (New Zealand data)
Other considerations

• Flowering takes 3 to 4 years from planting depending on site
• Ensure species is suitable for the site
• Soil types, waterlogging, coastal exposure
• Aspect
• Shading
QUESTIONS?