

## INFO BULLETIN-PEST REPELLENTS

Young trees can be severely set back or destroyed by animal browsing, in particular by rabbits, hares and possums. For many years it had been the practice to physically stop animals getting to seedlings with the use of tree guards and fencing. However, in recent years a different method of discouraging these pests is with an odour that repels them.

It is possible to prepare several types of animal repellents of this type based on:

- ❑ Eggs & acrylic paint
- ❑ Mutton fat & kerosene
- ❑ Fish fertiliser & acrylic paint
- ❑ Blood & bone fertiliser mix

Rabbits are herbivores and do not like animal protein.

### **Liquid Shotgun**

This product is produced by Southern Woods Nursery. Its ingredients consist of egg powder and acrylic resin. The animal protein in eggs is naturally repugnant to numerous plant-eating animal pests.

The acrylic resin component of the Liquid Shotgun allows for the adhesion of the solution onto the foliage of the tree seedlings. These ingredients are mixed together with water and can either be sprayed directly over the seedling tops prior to planting, or the tree tops may be dipped in this solution.

The Liquid Shotgun comes in two convenient sized packs, to spray 100 and 1000 tree seedlings. Trees can be dipped. The 100-tree pack can in fact treat 300 trees and the 1000-tree pack 3000 trees. However when dipping, care must be taken to ensure that the roots do not come into contact with the solution or this could irreparably damage the seedling.

Alternatively: With a glove on your hand, dip into the solution and run your glove up the stem of the tree after planting.

The mixed solution is rainfast in 2 - 3 hours and will continue to be effective for 3-4 months. However, this needs to be monitored to assess whether reapplication is likely. In areas where there is a serious threat by pests, where growth is rapid or where rainfall is high it is possible that the liquid shotgun would need to be re-applied at 2-4 month intervals.