

## Seasonal Planner

Understanding the biology of Muir's Corella can help reduce damage to crops and young trees

	MUIR'S CORELLA	FARMERS
JAN	↑ maximum flock sizes ↓	↑ plan damage control ↓
FEB		
MAR		
APR	↓ winter sowing ↓ damage control ↓	
MAY		
JUN	↑ breeding season ↓	↓ harvest ↓
JUL		
AUG		
SEP	↑ large flocks feed on stubble ↓	
OCT		
NOV		
DEC		

## Working Together

*Farmers can work with CALM to help conserve Muir's Corella and reduce the damage it causes by:*

- ◆ *Retaining paddock trees*
- ◆ *Planning damage control early in the season and monitoring bird numbers, movements and damage*
- ◆ *Co-operating with neighbours to manage crops, scare birds and decoy feed*
- ◆ *Recording successful methods of damage control and sharing them with neighbours*

For more information on living with Muir's Corella contact:

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## Living with Muir's Corella



How you can work with CALM to help conserve Muir's Corella and reduce the damage it causes on farms



# Reducing Damage on Farms

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## About Muir's Corella

- ◆ The World's only population of Muir's Corella (*Cacatua pastinator pastinator*) occurs in south-western Australia from Boyup Brook and Qualeup south to the lower Perup River, Lake Muir and Cambellup
- ◆ Like other cockatoos, Muir's Corella depends on mature eucalypts with hollows for nesting
- ◆ When large areas of the south-west were cleared for agriculture, numbers were reduced to fewer than 3000
- ◆ Muir's Corella is now Endangered and the bird and its habitat are protected by law
- ◆ Traditionally, Muir's Corella fed on native shoots, bulbs and seeds, but it now flocks to farmland to feed, where it can damage crops and young trees
- ◆ Shooting to kill and poisoning are illegal and are probably not effective control methods in the long-term
- ◆ There is no easy solution to the problems caused by Muir's Corella, but with planning, co-operation and communication, farmers can reduce the damage
- ◆ A knowledge of the biology of Muir's Corella can assist with planning damage control

***“We can't out number them, but we can out smart them”***

## The Facts

- ◆ Muir's Corella feeds on different crops at different times of the year as they germinate and ripen
- ◆ Most damage occurs to germinating cereal crops in autumn and seedling trees in winter
- ◆ Food is scarce in summer, when the population can be controlled by reducing the availability of grain
- ◆ Birds use regular flight paths, flock and feed together and regularly return to good feeding sites
- ◆ Flocks feed in the afternoon and morning in summer and can feed all day in winter
- ◆ Onion grass (*Romulea rosea*) is preferred to commercial crops and can be used as a decoy during sowing

## The Plan

- ◆ Work together to monitor the whereabouts, movements and numbers of birds
- ◆ Feed sheep away from crops and at or after dusk rather than in the morning
- ◆ Sow at the same time as your neighbours and as many paddocks as possible at the same time
- ◆ Develop a program of frequent and random scaring, such as moving scare guns from farm to farm
- ◆ Monitor crops for damage during the first few weeks of growth and take action at the first signs of damage
- ◆ Identify sites for decoy feeding where the Corellas are provided with food away from crops

## The Management

### 1. Crop Management

- ◆ Sow at the recommended rate, at the same time as your neighbours
- ◆ Cover grain, avoid and clean up spills during sowing and harvesting
- ◆ Minimise residual grain in the stubble by grazing sheep
- ◆ Direct drill to avoid exposing onion grass corms in seeded paddocks

### 2. Scare Tactics

- ◆ Monitor the activity of birds and combine several methods of scaring with licensed scare shooting
- ◆ Scare erratically, early in the season, early in the day and shift scare guns often

### 3. Decoy Feeding

- ◆ Decoy feed to divert birds from crops and continue to scare at crops
- ◆ Decoy feed as far away as possible from crops
- ◆ Use second seed or plough up onion grass in paddocks to expose corms