

Preventing bare areas in horse paddocks

Did you know that bare areas in paddocks may also worsen some horse health problems, including respiratory tract infections, eye irritation from dust and greasy heel from mud?

Maintaining good groundcover on a small horse property is one of the hardest tasks when it comes to property management.

Horses create a lot of wear and tear, both by actual grazing (especially if property managers let horses eat down to ground level) and by walking while grazing, or standing around waiting to be brought in.

This leads to bare areas which usually have compacted soil. Weeds are often the only plants that will grow in these areas as they are generally plants that can cope with poorer land conditions and are not preferred plants for eating.

High traffic areas (e.g. gateways and around troughs)

The Hills Horse Poo Co-op

Baulkham Hills Council (NSW) has engaged in a project to work with people interested in ensuring that their properties are good for their horses, good for the environment and an asset to the community.



It is called 'The Hills Shire HORSE' (Horse Owners Riding to a Sustainable Environment). One component is The Hills Horse Poo Co-op, to connect those with the horse manure and those who want the horse manure, such as gardeners.

For more information on the poo co-op or an upcoming short course for horse property owners (which has a council rebate of \$115 for properties who complete an Action Plan), contact Evie Roberts on 9843 0579 or email your details to eroberts@bhsc.nsw.gov.au



Did you know you can contact the Greening Australia Exchange Program to receive free advice about land, flora and fauna?



There are many techniques which can be used to avoid bare areas in horse paddocks, including paddock spelling and pasture renovation.

benefit from installation of a hardened surface such as crushed rubble.

Bare areas within a paddock will benefit from some form of mulch (old hay, bedding, manure etc) or even bringing in clean topsoil. Such areas will need to be fenced off until the grass is well established. This can be done with a simple electric fence.

Proactive management is, however, by far the best. Consider yarding horses for part of the day, rotational grazing, paddock spelling and pasture renovation as ways of maintaining 70% groundcover.

For more information about bare areas in paddocks and pastures, visit www.horseslandwater.com

BOOK REVIEW:

Managing Horses on Small Properties

By Jane Myers
Landlinks Press
206 pages



This book has invaluable information for everyone, from first time to experienced horse/land owners. This book will show you how to plan and manage a horse property sustainably.

It has chapters on horse management (including behaviour), property selection, design, water, pasture management (including information on maintaining groundcover), facilities, fencing, vegetation, manure management and includes a great section on further resources.

HorsesLandWater Peri-Urban Project

HorsesLandWater workshops and field days

National Forum on Horse Keeping and the Environment: Melbourne Airport Hilton: June 1, 2007. Invitations are being sent to all national horse organisations. Supported by Melbourne Water. Requests to receive an invitation (should vacancies occur) can be sent to Julie Fiedler on (08) 8294 2460 or email horsesa@horsesa.asn.au

HorsesLandWater Workshops (free): This workshop looks at horsekeeping and natural resources management. If you are a horse industry representative (e.g. Executive Officer, horse organisation committee member/coach/researcher/lecturer) or are employed in the area of natural resources management within a peri-urban area and would like to receive an invitation to attend one of these free workshops, please contact Julie Fiedler at horsesa@horsesa.asn.au or 0402 488 306.

HorsesLandWater Field Days (free): The aim of each short field day is to introduce horse owners and natural

resources management officers to field day formats and resources. Scheduled to be held in Melbourne, Tasmania, WA and NSW during June and July. Each participant receives a set of resources. All field days, as confirmed, are listed on the www.horseslandwater.com website, which also accepts registrations. Enquiries to Julie Fiedler horsesa@horsesa.asn.au or phone 0402 488 306.

Did you know?

If your organisation (horse industry, government agency, registered training organisation or consultancy firm) is conducting a horsekeeping and land management event, field day, course or special project, did you know you can advertise for free on www.horseslandwater.com? The website enables users to register with a confirmation email sent to the event coordinator's computer desktop.

Thank you to horse industry communications which have shared the HorsesLandWater message (Cyberhorse, Horsepoint, Hoofbeats, Equestrian Federation of Australia, Southern Vales Dressage Club). Please let us know if there are more!

www.horseslandwater.com

Project Partners:– Harness Racing Board (AHRB), Australian Pony Club Council (APCC), Melbourne Water, Environmental Protection Authority SA (Watershed Protection Office), Greening Australia Exchange Program, Tasmania South Natural Resources Management Board, Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board ... with more joining in!

Please promote the Peri-Urban Project through your club or horse-related business website, noticeboard or newsletter.

New resources ... You can download the HorsesLandWater publication *Horse Manure Management* from www.horsesa.asn.au

It contains tips for managing manure responsibly and includes information on 'What are your manure management options', 'What to do with the poo', 'Watercourses need help', and 'Don't forget other places'.



What's coming up?

For more information about these, and other upcoming events visit www.horseslandwater.com

Healthy Horse and Pasture Management Course – Manningham Council (Vic), starts April 21, phone (03) 9840 9173.

Horse Management through Drought – Woodend (Vic), April 28, Louise Scott, phone (03) 5430 4670.

Managing Horses on Small Properties – Samford (QLD), May 19, phone (07) 5543 8623.

Managing Horses on Small Properties – Illawarra and Southern Highlands (NSW) May 26 and 27, phone (07) 5543 8623.

HorsesLandWater Field Day – McLaren Districts Riding Club (SA), June 2, phone (08) 8294 2460.

HorsesLandWater

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