Saltland notes: don't put sheep in yet

Department of Agriculture, Western Australia
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DONT PUT SHEEP IN YET!

If you have sown bluebush or saltbush this year, keep the sheep out.

The early growth of bluebush and saltbush is slow and it is easy to be trapped into thinking they will not grow at all.

Research officers working on these plants have made this mistake several times.

The top picture shows a plot which was sown in the autumn of 1957. The photograph was taken in the following May, 12 months later. The result is not very promising and indeed it looked even less hopeful in the spring of 1957.

Fortunately the area had been fenced off and stock were kept out for a further three years.

The bottom picture shows exactly the same plot in February, 1961. It will now be possible to graze this area annually and to get real value from it.

According to the results of the recent saltland survey, 1,391 farmers had sown special plants on their saltland, but only 364 of these had also fenced to give the sowings grazing protection. It is most unfortunate that so many farmers are likely to be disappointed in their results. It is to be hoped they will not lay the blame on the plants when in fact good results would probably have been achieved had the sheep been kept out.

If you have sown bluebush keep all stock out for at least two full years from the time of sowing.

and

Remember that even though bluebush and saltbush are extremely salt tolerant they must have the right type of saltland—they do not like severe waterlogging.
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