

Nurse-protégé interactions

Catches wind-borne or water dispersed seeds

Increased visitation from seeding carrying animals/animal caches

Use of shrubs as perching sites for seeding carrying birds

Root grafts and physical support

Provides soil humus

Increasing soil micro-organisms

Increase soil moisture, nutrients, oxygenation

Regulation of soil acidity

Reduced UV and temperature radiation

Increased humidity and moisture

Provides shelter from wind, rain, and snow

Reduced nurse palatability

Physical nurse defences against herbivory/granivory

Associational resistance

Increased propagule pressure

Greater fitness from increased pollination

Nurse-associated plant species

Altered spatial distribution of protégé plants

Different species composition under nurses

Resource allocation leading to ecotypic differentiation

Ontogenetic shifts in protégé plants

Favouring distant phylogenetically related plant species