



Swiss Federal Institute for Forest,
Snow and Landscape Research

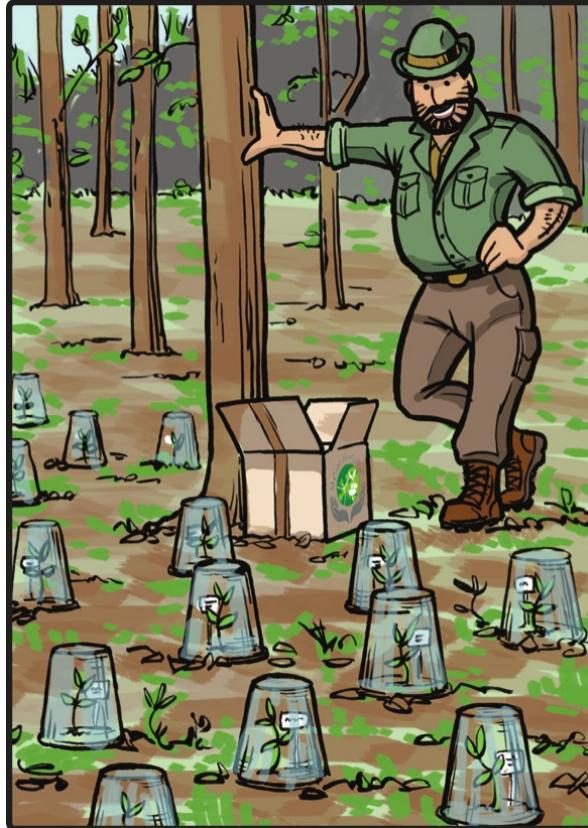


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MyGardenOfTrees - Trials 2023-2028

How to set up your micro-garden?



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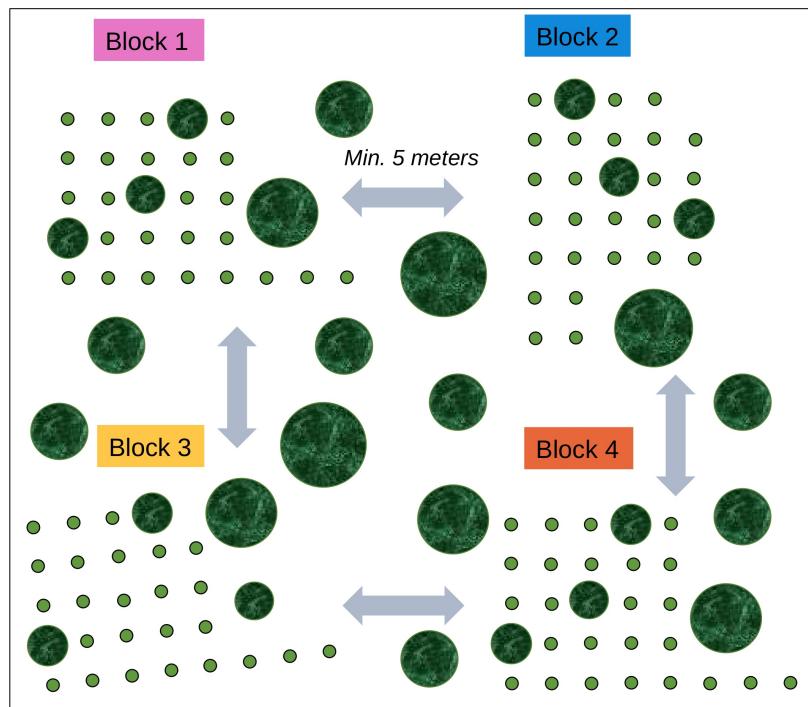
1. What to do with this parcel?

This parcel contains your seeds. The trials of MyGardenOfTrees mimic natural regeneration. This is why you received non-stratified seeds. We have stored these seeds at -5°C since their collection in autumn 2022. Now it is important that you install the micro-garden as soon as you can so the seeds get a natural stratification typical to your forest. In the meanwhile, keep the parcel with the seeds in a cool and dry place. Ideally, you put the seeds in the plastic bags in your fridge (~5°C) or in your garage or cellar. Make sure that you choose a place where temperature does not go above 10°C. Nevertheless, if the maximum day temperature is below ~3-4°C outside, we recommend that you wait for a warmer period to install your garden. The soil will be frosty and it will be difficult to handle the material and your smartphone. The seeds can last in the fridge up to some weeks.

2. Overview of your future micro-garden

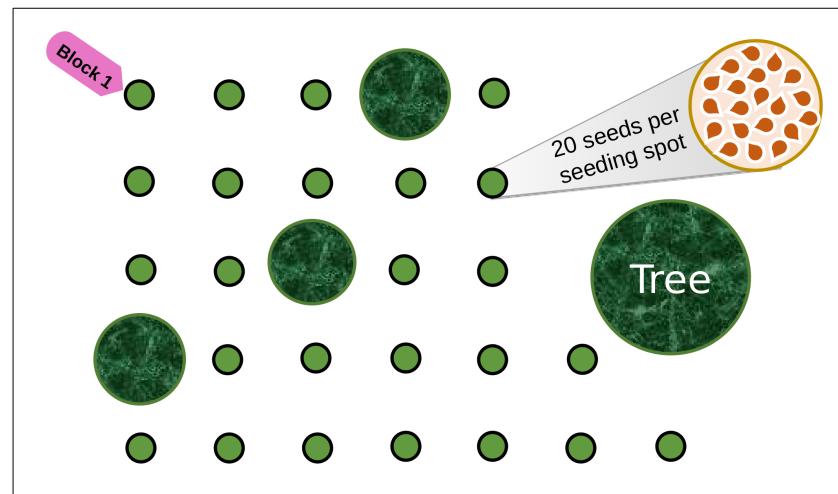
4 blocks spread out in your forest with at least 5m between them!

Your micro-garden is composed of 4 blocks: Block 1, Block 2, Block 3, and Block 4. The blocks can be spaced out in the forest but keep at least 5 m between blocks to make sure that you know which seeding spot belongs to which block!



Zoom to a block: seed protectors must be in parallel lines!

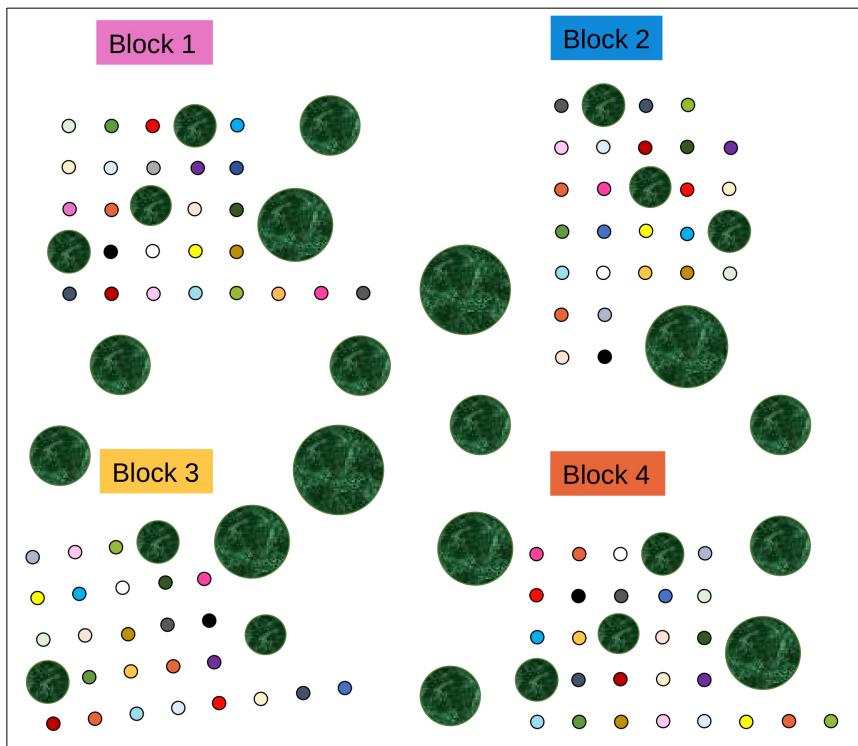
Each block consists of 25 seeding spots. At each seeding spot, you will sow 20 seeds. You can arrange the seeding spots in any shapes depending on the obstacles you may encounter (such as trees, roots or stones) as long as you keep the seed protectors in parallel lines.





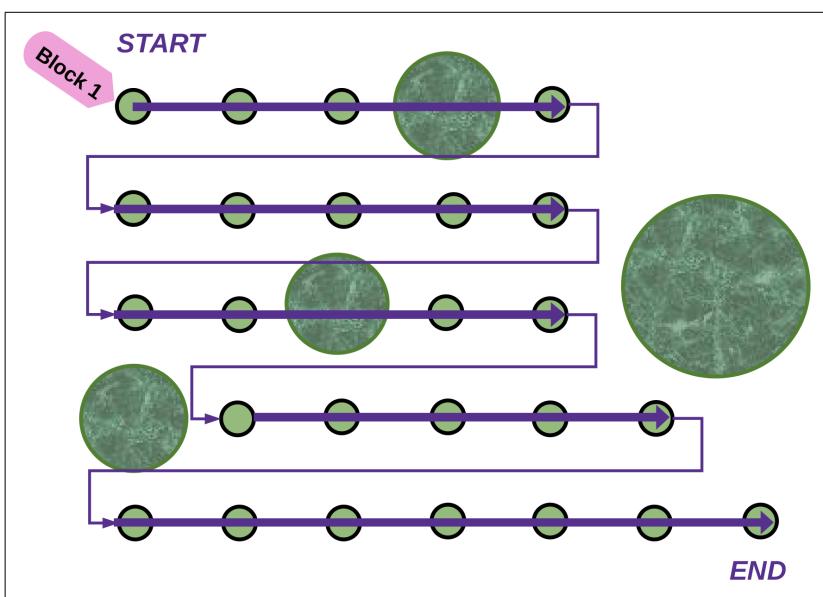
Each block has 25 different seed origins, but the 4 blocks are identical!

Within one block you will sow seeds from 25 different seed origins, i.e. species, provenances and families (mother trees), but the 4 blocks are identical, in fact, they are replicates. You may sow the different seed origins in a different order across blocks.



You will tell us the planting order of the seeds starting from the top left corner!

You can choose a corner where you put the colored tag of the block (pink for Block 1, blue for Block 2, yellow for Block 3, orange for Block 4). This will be the starting point to tell us the order in which you planted the different seed origins. Note that in the field, you use your smartphone and the ENKETO Web Form to tell the order!



In the field, you will draw the shape of your block using the sheets with grids and send us a photo of it!



The ENKETO Web Form

You will use your smartphone to collect and send us data about your micro-garden and the seedlings growing inside. We use a tool called “ENKETO Web Form”. To use it, you don't need to install any apps!

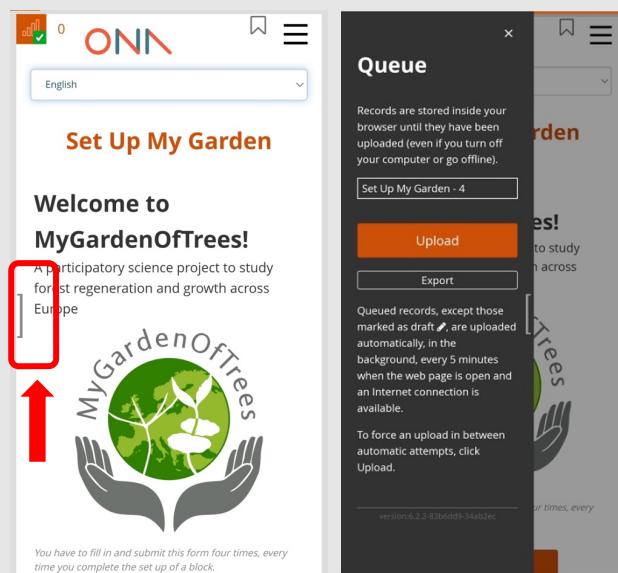
To open an ENKETO Web Form for the first time, you need internet connection. Once opened, you can fill forms offline until you close your web browser¹. Thus, if you have no or weak reception at your micro-garden: open the ENKETO Web Form with internet connection (at home) before going to your micro-garden!

Get to know the ENKETO web form “SetUpMyGarden”

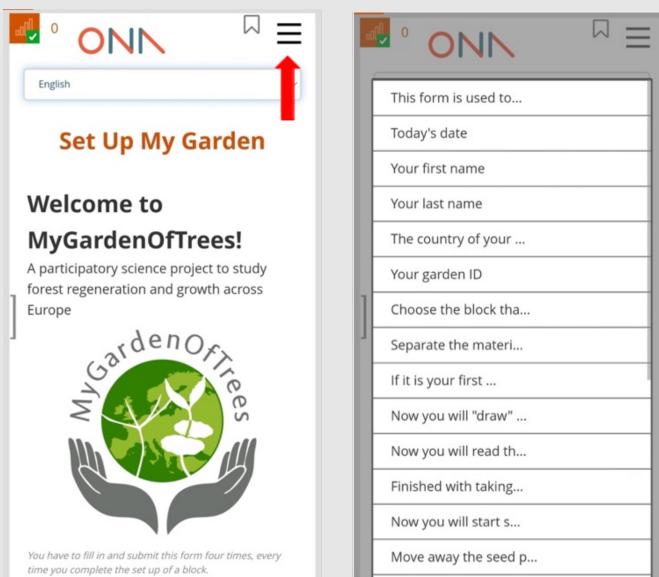
<p>Insert this link https://enketo.ona.io/x/wocq0H YV in your mobile phone or scan the QR code.</p>	
<p>Select your preferred language. Click on the drop-down menu on the top to select the language you prefer.</p> <p>While at home, you can explore the form to get comfortable with it. Don't hesitate to fill in any information for testing. As long as you don't submit the form, the information can be erased when you re-open the form.</p>	<p>Set Up My Garden</p> <p>Welcome to MyGardenOfTrees!</p> <p>A participatory science project to study forest regeneration and growth across Europe</p> <p>MyGardenOfTrees logo</p> <p>You have to fill in and submit this form four times, every time you complete the set up of a block.</p>

¹ Technically, until you clear your cache, but it is done automatically by Chrome and other web browsers (default option).

By clicking on the brackets on the left of the screen, you can access the list of forms waiting to be submitted.



On the top right corner, you can access the [full list of questions](#). Click here in case you want to go back to a specific question to correct it or to explore the form.



This form is used to...
Today's date
Your first name
Your last name
The country of your ...
Your garden ID
Choose the block tha...
Separate the materi...
If it is your first ...
Now you will "draw" ...
Now you will read th...
Finished with taking...
Now you will start s...
Move away the seed p...



At home: How to get ready for installing your micro-garden?

Check the content of your parcels.

Big parcels each contain:

- 50 metal seed protectors
- 150 metal pegs

Small parcel:

- 100 paper bags with seeds of *Abies* spp and *Fagus* spp. The seeds are delivered in 4 plastic bags, one for each block.
- 100 tags labeled with species name and provenance. The tags are stapled to the paper bags.
- 4 laminated warning signs, one for each block.
- A bag with 100 cable ties to attach the labels to the seed protectors.
- A white sheet of 1m by 1m.
- A 4m long string.
- A few empty white tags.
- 4 sheets with grids to draw the shape of each block

Two “big parcels”: 50 x 50 x 50 cm parcels from LTM Italy



One “small parcel” 20 x 30 x 30 cm parcel from the WSL or your local coordinator



What else do you need to set up your micro-garden?

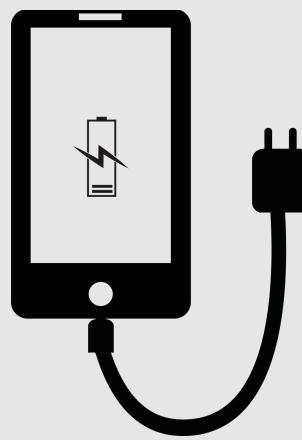
- A pair of gardening gloves for handling the seed protectors.
- A hand fork or small rake to loosen the potentially frozen soil or to remove mosses and seedlings.
- A hammer to fix the seed protectors with pegs.
- A permanent marker to add your name and contact details to the warning sign if you wish to do so.
- 4 wooden poles and pins/nails to display the warning sign.
- A kneeling pad, or at least a thick plastic bag, to protect your knees!





Fully charge your mobile phone before leaving to the field!

- If you go with other people: ask everybody to fully charge their phones.
- If you have an external battery, take it for re-charge.
- Keep your phone in the pocket when not in use!
- If your phone runs out of battery and shuts down: don't worry, your ENKETO Wed Form is not lost! When the phone is recharged, you can recover the form and continue to work with it.



In order to enjoy your day of installing your micro-garden, we recommend that you wear warm and resistant clothes (clothes for forestry works are ideal)!