

Planting Event: how best to plant trees

One objective of Plant-for-the-Planet is to plant 1,000 billion new trees worldwide by the year 2020. That's just 150 trees for every human being on earth. You can plant more, of course! You can also organise your own planting event so that we can achieve our goal.

A planting event is great because you get to plant trees together. A planting event is also a fantastic opportunity to spread the message of the children and youth of Plant-for-the-planet. You could invite your friends, classmates, parents and other adults, as well as the press. This guide will help you and covers everything from who can help you to what you have to watch out for when planting trees.

Let's get started!

1. Form an organization team

You can plan and organise a planting event on your own or as a small group. With more people it is naturally a bit easier, as you can divide up the tasks somewhat. At the end of the day, it is also much more fun as a team. So, get together in a small group (with friends, siblings, classmates) and organise the planting together.

2. Find out who the forester responsible for your area is

You should absolutely engage the help of experts in your planning, organization and implementation of your planting. Every town or city has one or more competent foresters. Find out who the forester is from your town hall, for example, and make contact with him or her. The forester can help you in your preparations and with the planting itself. In addition to the forester, you could also approach nurseries, forest adventure centers or gardeners for help.

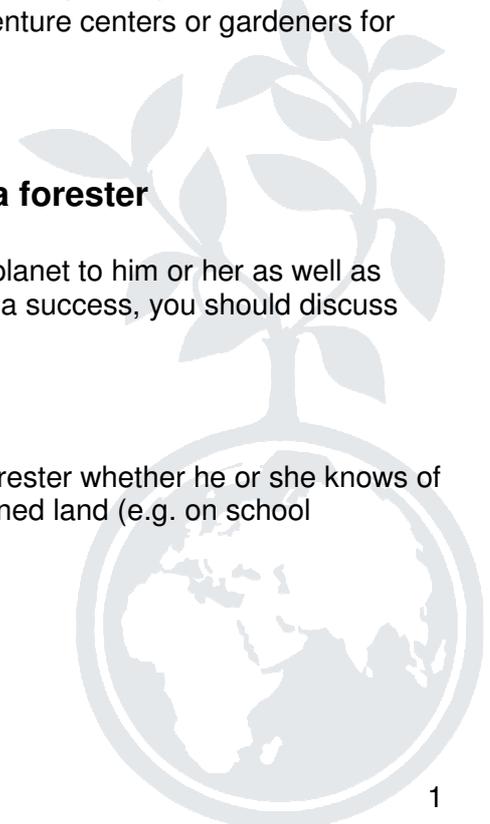
3. Plan the planting event together with a forester

When you have found the forester, introduce Plant-for-the-planet to him or her as well as your idea for a planting event. To ensure your event will be a success, you should discuss the following together:

- **Planting location**

→ If you still have no idea where to plant, ask the forester whether he or she knows of a suitable place. If you want to plant on privately owned land (e.g. on school grounds), be sure to ask the owner for permission.

- **Time to plant**



→ The best planting times for trees are spring (March, April, May) and Autumn (September, October, November, December), because at that time the ground is usually neither frozen nor affected by extreme heat or drought. Please note that the

best time for planting trees may vary, depending on where you are in the world. Decide on a date together with the forester.

• **Tree species and types**

→ The tree species must be suitable for the area so that the trees can grow healthily. Younger trees get used to their new locations better and more effectively than larger saplings. Care also has to be taken not to damage the trees during transportation. The forester will know best which tree species are most suitable.

• **Tools for planting**

→ In order to put the trees in the ground, you will of course need tools (spade, watering-can, wheelbarrow etc.). Discuss with the forester which tools you need for the planting as well as how many. Think about whether each of you can bring a spade with you, for example, or ask the forester whether he or she can provide tools.

• **Prepare the planting area**

→ Consider together with the forester whether the planned planting area requires special preparation for the planting. Sometimes the ground can be very hard or it might have become overgrown with shrubbery. So that a forest grows uniformly, sometimes the positions of the new trees will need to be marked so that they aren't too close to each other. Again, the forester will be able to provide the best advice

4. Announce your planting event

So that as many people experience and take-part in your planting event as possible, you should announce it as soon as you have a date. Inform people about the precise location of planting, the date and time as well as whether the participants should bring tools, such as spades.

Inform the local media (e.g. press and television) about your planting event and invite them to attend.

You could also distribute Plant-for-the-Planet flyers at the planting. You can order the flyers from the Plant-for-the-Planet secretariat.

5. The day of the planting event

Please ask the forester to be at the event and ask him or her to explain to all participants what species of tree is being planted, what its properties special features are and what you need to consider when planting them.

• **The general rules when planting:**

→ You must note in particular how deep the tree needs to be planted. Planting too deep is one of the most common mistakes. The root stems need to be above the surface of the soil, as if they are buried completely the risk is that the fine roots will not get enough oxygen, will rot or completely suffocate, as a result of which the tree would not be able to develop healthily.

→ The newly planted trees should be sufficiently watered.

→ Browsing protection must probably be attached to the tree saplings, such as protective plastic or sheep's wool, so wild animals such as deer do not feed on them.

→ If larger trees are to be planted, these young trees may need to be secured with stakes to help them develop roots more quickly.

6. After planting: taking care of the trees

Clarify who is going to take over the further care of it, it is a person who takes over the further care of trees. Normally the forester will look after them, but if you are planting on private ground, discuss this with the owner, who will ultimately have to look after them.

Checklist for planting

- Forester contacted (advice)
- Planting area found
- Date for planting agreed
- Trees organised
- Work tools organised (spades, watering cans, gloves ...)
- The media have been informed of the planting

