



Checklist: is my forest a Tiny Forest®?

Our dream is for every neighbourhood to have its own Tiny Forest, so we have written an open-source Tiny Forest Handbook to help everyone create their own miniature forest. But not every miniature forest is a true Tiny Forest. The Tiny Forest concept is the brainchild of the Indian engineer Shubhendu Sharma (Afforestt). He was in turn inspired by the forestry method developed by the Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki. In order to ensure that the woodlands carrying the Tiny Forest name actually adhere to their forestry principles, we have registered the Tiny Forest name as a Registered Trademark® in consultation with Mr. Sharma. You can use this checklist to determine whether your miniature forest is a true Tiny Forest®.

Definition of a Tiny Forest

A Tiny Forest is a dense, fast-growing native woodland that is around the size of a tennis court (approx. 200 m²). The forest is not only an attractive location for butterflies, birds, bees and small mammals; it is a pleasant place for people as well. In the outdoor classroom, children can learn about the Netherlands' native flora and fauna, and it provides a pleasant and healthy spot for neighbours to come together.

Social and physical characteristics of a Tiny Forest

The Tiny Forest checklist includes both physical and social characteristics. Projects that are open to the public must meet both the social and physical characteristics, while a Tiny Forest planted in your own back yard (starting from 100m²) is only subject to the physical characteristics. Naturally, we applaud any attempt to apply the social characteristics to your backyard forest, but it is not obligatory.

Physical characteristics

My miniature forest...

- ...is the product of field- and literature research into the most common native species in my region.
- ...only contains native trees and shrubbery.
- ...has soil that has been treated according to the Tiny Forest planting method.
- ...has at least 25 different tree species.
- ...has 3 to 5 trees per square meter.
- ...provides space for the trees to grow undisturbed for at least 10 years.
- ...lets the branches, leaves, and dead trees lie where they have fallen.
- ...is at least 4 meters wide across the full length of the forest, without interruptions (such as a path).
- ...has a layer of mulch (such as straw) at least 15 cm deep.
- ...is enclosed by a fence for the first two years to protect the young trees.

Social characteristics

My miniature forest...

- ...has an outdoor classroom with seating for 30 children at a time.
- ...has a local partner (volunteer).
- ...was planted by local residents and schoolchildren.
- ...has been adopted by a local school or child care facility.
- ...is used by the school or child care facility for outdoor lessons at least once per month.
- ...can be used as a place for the neighbours to come together.
- ...has a calendar of events with activities for the neighbourhood and the school.

Does your miniature forest meet 100% of the characteristics?

Yes

Outstanding! Tell us about your Tiny Forest at: tinyforest@iun.nl, and we'll give it a space on our website and in our communications. We're also very interested in your experiences with your Tiny forest, so don't hesitate to let us know!

No

Contact us at tinyforest@iun.nl to find out how to turn your miniature forest into a true Tiny Forest. If you'd rather not do that, then we're still excited about your new miniature forest, but please don't call it a Tiny Forest.