# Planting a Tiny Forest: how-to guide

There are six key steps to creating a Tiny Forest.

**Step one: Forest cover type field survey**

A Tiny Forest’s success comes from truly understanding the chosen location. Time and effort will go into identifying the relevant, native plant species needed for each individual Tiny Forest.

**Step two: Soil survey**

The research doesn’t end with plants. Soil is the foundation upon which a Tiny Forest will be grown. Before any planting starts, we need to understand the soil. This will include what type of soil is present in the chosen location, whether there are any cables or pipes that may interfere, and what nutrients it already has.

**Step three: Soil preparation**

Once we understand the soil we are working with, we can start preparing it for planting. There are four layers to optimum soil: subsoil, subsoil mixed with humus, humus layer and litter cover.

**Step four: Draw a planting plan**

Our planting plan optimises the space and plant species chosen. This is also the stage to get creative and add any paths or features to make each forest unique.

**Step five: Planting day**

Now that all the preparation is done, it’s time to get hands dirty! For optimal results, the entire forest must be planted on the same day, so having a team of people ready to plant is a good idea.

**Step six: Maintenance**

The initial three years are integral to a Tiny Forest’s life, and this may be the time it needs some light-touch maintenance. This varies depending on the forest and will be made clear in each Tiny Forest plan.