

## Planting and maintenance of solitary trees

<b>Goal</b>	Conservation and promotion of vertical structures in the landscape
<b>Short description of the measure</b>	<p>Old trees, especially pollard willows or elms, including deadwood, shall be protected.</p> <p>Furthermore, more solitary native trees should be planted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>along field margins, paths, on meadows or pastures</li> <li>pruning of trees if needed during early spring</li> <li>within a 10 m radius around the tree: no tillage, no fertilizer, no herbicides</li> </ul>
<b>Timeframe</b> <small>(When to start a measure and anticipated time for implementation)</small>	<p><b>When to start:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For temperate regions, planting of trees should take place between November and end of April during frost-free periods. Planting in autumn has the advantage, that trees can build new roots already by growing season in spring.</li> <li>For Mediterranean regions, planting of trees should take place during the vegetative stop, or sap stop, between November and end of March during frost-free periods, and after rainy periods in autumn. During the sap stop trees can build new roots already by growing season in spring.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fresh planted trees are maintained and protected</li> <li>Trees are allowed to reach a high age</li> <li>Old trees show evidence of usable habitat</li> <li>Native trees with a distinct / discrete crown, at least 8 m high (fruit trees can be lower).</li> </ul>

**How auditors can assess if the measure has been implemented in a good quality?**



Pic. 1: Positive example of a single tree



Pic. 2: Old tree with breeding holes

<p><b>Additional information the auditor need for verification (if any)</b></p>	
<p><b>Effects on biodiversity</b> (ecosystems, species, soil biodiversity)</p>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="flex: 1;">  </div> <div style="flex: 2;"> <p>Old, solitary trees serve as habitat for <b>specialized insects</b>. Hermit beetle, capricorn beetle and stag beetle – among others – feed on bark and dead wood parts. They further provide shelter and breeding habitat. Pollard willow, e.g., are the most insect-rich trees overall</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="flex: 1;">  </div> <div style="flex: 2;"> <p>Old trees provide breeding holes for <b>raptors</b> and serve as perch in open landscapes</p> <p>Many <b>birds</b> are dependent on trees for nesting.</p> </div> </div> <p>Solitary trees in general are important landscape elements. They contribute to structural diversity and belong historically to the image of Europe’s cultural landscape.</p> <p>Trees also fulfil important ecosystem functions, such as CO<sub>2</sub> fixation, but also erosion protection and water infiltration and purification.</p>
<p><b>Indicator/key data</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of trees</li> <li>▪ Number of trees planted in an appropriate manner</li> </ul>
<p><b>References</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="http://www.landwirtschaft-artenvielfalt.de">www.landwirtschaft-artenvielfalt.de</a></li> <li>▪ Promotion of biodiversity in fruit plantations – NABU; REWE and Lake Constance Foundation, 2015</li> <li>▪ Stiftung Rheinische Kulturlandschaft, DBU: Abschlussbericht Maßnahmen- und Artensteckbriefe zur Förderung der Vielfalt typischer Arten und Lebensräume der Agrarlandschaften, 2018</li> </ul>

## Further information: [Knowledge Pool](#)

This Action Fact Sheet belongs to the training package for auditors of standard organisations and companies and was developed within the project LIFE Food & Biodiversity (Biodiversity in Standards and Labels of for the Food Industry). The main objective of the project is to improve the biodiversity performance of standards and sourcing requirements in the food industry by helping standard organisations to integrate efficient biodiversity criteria into their schemes and motivating food processing companies and retailers to include comprehensive biodiversity criteria into their sourcing guidelines.

Editor: LIFE Food & Biodiversity; Lake Constance Foundation

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