

## Planting and maintenance of solitary trees

### Goal

Conservation and promotion of vertical structures in the landscape

### Short description of the measure

Old trees, especially pollard willows, including deadwood, shall be protected.

Furthermore, more solitary native trees should be planted:

- along field margins, paths, on meadows or pastures
- pruning of trees if needed during early spring
- within a 10 m radius around the tree: no tillage, no fertilizer, no herbicides



Pic. 1: Positive example of a single tree



Pic. 2: Old tree with breeding holes

### Quality elements of soundly implemented biodiversity measures

- Fresh planted trees are maintained and protected
- Trees are allowed to reach a high age
- Old trees show evidence of usable habitat
- Native trees with a distinct/discrete crown, at least 8 m high (fruit trees can be lower).

### Effects on biodiversity

(ecosystems, species, soil biodiversity)



Old, solitary trees serve as habitat for **specialized insects**. 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



Old trees provide breeding holes for **raptors** and serve as perch in open landscapes

Many **birds** are dependent on trees for nesting.

Solitary trees in general are important **landscape elements**. They contribute to structural diversity and belong historically to the image of Europe's cultural landscape

Trees also fulfil important **ecosystem functions**, such as CO<sub>2</sub> fixation, but also erosion pro-

	tection and water infiltration and purification.
<b>Other positive effects/benefit for the farmer</b>	<p>Trees are important cultural assets and contribute to the positive image of farming.</p> <p>Trees provide food and shelter to livestock animals.</p>
<b>Indicator/key data</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of trees</li> <li>Number of trees planted in an appropriate manner</li> </ul>
<b>References</b>	<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 product and quality managers of 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.

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