

# BASIC

## Monitoring Guidelines

Fewer than 1000 trees



**Planting trees is only the first step toward establishing new areas of native forest. Robust monitoring of survival and growth over time will enable us to determine how successful planting has been and discover what has contributed to its growth or decline.**

This will increase the accuracy of both our overall tree count and our measures of potential CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration. To achieve these benefits, Trees That Count recommends any individual or group planting **fewer than 1000 trees** to inspect their planting site regularly and provide us with feedback on the performance of their trees.

### What Do You Need To Do?

Print the Field Sheets provided in this pack and using the guidelines below fill them out as best as you can.

The **Planting Information Sheet** provides Trees That Count with basic information about your site, and we'll use this until we have automated monitoring procedures in place on a mobile app or on our website.

For **Basic Monitoring** data, you will also need to complete one **Basic Monitoring Field Sheet** each time you inspect your site for monitoring purposes. Use a new copy of each sheet each time you are monitoring your plantings.

### What is Basic Monitoring?

The aim of **Basic Monitoring** is to gather basic feedback on how well planting is progressing at smaller planting sites without imposing an undue burden on planters who may lack the time or resources to carry out more formal monitoring. To this end, this level of monitoring requires only the collection of data on the survival of your planted natives. This is the bare minimum of data required to help us keep our overall count as accurate as possible and to aid in the success of future plantings.

### Monitoring Methods

There are two options available:

- **Exact Numbers.** If you have the time and resources, or if you have planted only a small number of trees, you can supply us with exact numbers. For example, if you planted 20 trees in 2017, you could inform Trees That Count that, one year after planting in 2018, 16 remained alive.
- **Estimation.** If you have planted hundreds of trees, it may not be practical to provide Trees That Count with exact numbers. In that case, you may estimate the percentage of trees surviving since the planting was last inspected. To make this easier, Trees That Count only requires estimates to be provided in one of several bands: (0-20%, 21-40%, 41-60%, 61-80%, 81%+).



Figure 1. Measuring the height of a seedling.



Figure 2. Inspecting a revegetation site.

### Additional Information (Optional)

In addition to survival data, it would also help both you and Trees That Count to record other basic information, such as:

- **Reason for Mortality.** If possible, note what may have caused the loss of trees since the last monitoring and which species were most affected. These could include, for example, animal browsing, or heavy frost. This information not only helps us to build a picture of the risks which newly planted trees are facing in your region and nationwide, but can also help you to better target resources such as pest control, as well as help to identify those species more likely to survive at your site in future.
- **Overall Height.** An estimate of the average height of your planted trees. For example, “average 50cm height at planting”, or “average 80cm height one year after planting”.
- **Photographs.** May be useful for documenting points of particular interest. For example, photographs of animal damage to trees can help identify the pest animals responsible and focus any control effort.

### Monitoring Frequency

Initial data collection should be undertaken as soon as possible after planting (i.e. within 2 weeks). Subsequent data collection is at the discretion of the planter and can be supplied as time and circumstance permit. However, the minimum recommended frequency for data collection is at intervals of approximately one year, two to three years and five years after the initial planting, or until plants are a minimum of 1.5 metres high (or above the height of competing exotic vegetation).

### Limitations of Basic Monitoring

In addition to this basic monitoring, Trees That Count also offers more advanced monitoring options which can help meet not only our needs but yours as well. While these are typically recommended for larger planters, nothing precludes smaller planters from adopting them if they wish to:

- Planters who require a robust visual record of how their planting is progressing for their stakeholders are encouraged to consider photopoints, which uses photographs from specific fixed points within your site to more accurately document growth over time. For more details on photopoints go to: [www.treesthatcount.co.nz/resources/monitoring](http://www.treesthatcount.co.nz/resources/monitoring)
- Planters of larger numbers of trees who require statistically and scientifically robust measurements of how their planting is progressing are welcome to implement a network of sampling plots as recommended by the Advanced Monitoring Guidelines. For more details, go to [www.treesthatcount.co.nz/resources/monitoring](http://www.treesthatcount.co.nz/resources/monitoring)

### Monitoring Field Sheets

Completed monitoring forms can be scanned and sent to: [monitoring@treesthatcount.co.nz](mailto:monitoring@treesthatcount.co.nz)

Or, alternatively, posted to:

Monitoring Team  
Trees That Count  
P.O. Box 10420  
Wellington 6143

### Contacts

For further information, please visit [www.treesthatcount.co.nz](http://www.treesthatcount.co.nz) or contact:

Technical Advisor, David Bergin, 027 600 3017, [david@treesthatcount.co.nz](mailto:david@treesthatcount.co.nz)  
Operations Manager, Caroline Wallace, 027 229 3623, [caroline@treesthatcount.co.nz](mailto:caroline@treesthatcount.co.nz)



## Planting Information Sheet

Complete this sheet for each of the planting sites you are monitoring and return it to [monitoring@treesthatcount.co.nz](mailto:monitoring@treesthatcount.co.nz)

### Site location and contacts

Name of your planting site / your identifier	
Site No. (if you have one)	
Site Location (Planting Site Address & Region)	
Site Contact (Owner/Manager)	
Contact Phone Number and Email	
GPS Reference (approx. central point of planting)	
Site Description (e.g. current land-use, vegetation cover)	
Aspect of site (N,S,E,W or bearing) and Altitude (m)	

### Planting details

Planted by (e.g. community, contractor, landowner, council)	
Date planting began at site	
Average spacing (or stems/ha)	
Notes (e.g. any other planting in the area, expected threats to planting such as potential vigorous woody weeds or pest animals)	

### All trees planted at this site (by species)

Date	Species	No. Planted	Date	Species	No. Planted

### History of other (non-planting) activities undertaken at this site

(e.g. site preparation, site inspection/notes, weed control, animal control)

Date	Activity

### Diagram of planting site (as well as location of any monitoring plots/transects/photopoints)

(Indicate access points, local roads, geographical features, monitoring layout, photopoint location, etc.)



## Basic Monitoring Field Sheet

Complete this sheet each time you monitor your planting site,  
and return it to [monitoring@treesthatcount.co.nz](mailto:monitoring@treesthatcount.co.nz)

### Name of your planting site (your reference)

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### Date of monitoring inspection - Select just one option (use a new field sheet for each inspection)

	ASAP after planting	Approx. 1 year after planting	Approx. 2 years after planting	Approx. 5 years after planting
Date:				

### EITHER: Survival estimates - Tick one box below that reflects your best estimate of how many of the trees at this planting site have survived since the last inspection. There is no need to take species into account.

0-20%	21-40%	41-60%	61-80%	81-100%

### OR: Exact survival number - Record the exact number of trees at this planting site that currently survive. This is a grand total only and does not need to be broken down by species.

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### Average height - Estimate the average current height of your trees, in centimetres (optional)

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### Reason(s) for mortality - if known (optional)

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### Other comments - e.g. changes in site characteristics, recommended management requirements (optional)

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