

TENDING FORESTS

FOREST – OUR LARGEST ECO GARDEN

By gardening, we wish to improve conditions for the growth and health of our plants and thus ensure a high level of adaptability of our garden to pests and heavy rainfall. By tending our forests, we strive to achieve similar goals: to strengthen their stable diversity, increase the quality of timber and their value, and foster other roles of forests. We also try to strike a balance between various roles of forests, or the short- and long-term goals of their owners. Forest owners are also a part of community and society, therefore the coordination of decisions on tending forests is done in a wider context.



A general concept of **tending forests** means a conscientious and responsible attitude towards them as regards all work and tasks of their owners and all the uses of forests which also apply to their visitors. This concept is illustrated by the slogan *Taking care of our forests*.

With this care, we try to mimic and guide the natural process of eliminating trees in all development stages of a forest. During the younger stages of development (forest saplings and brush), we identify and eliminate trees with negative traits, whereas in older growth stages (young stand, pole stand, large diameter tree), we recognize trees with certain predefined positive characteristics and aid their growth.



Did you know that only **1 in 1000 trees per ha survives** and grows into a mature tree? This insight is the the guiding principle for tending forests and directing their development.

Tending is based on fostering favourable factors whilst hindering detrimental elements in the development of forests, trying to maximise the natural course of events. As (future) owners of forests, it is our responsibility to take care of and tend our forests. In addition to timber production, close-to-nature forest management also encompasses ecological and social roles of forests from which all forest visitors can benefit, regardless of their ownership.

You can find more information on tending forests for (future) forest owners at <http://www.zgs.si/eng/homepage/index.html>.