



NGĀ TAONGA TUKU ORANGA  
Inspiring Children. Protecting Aotearoa.

## Teacher Information 2024

Welcome to the Trees for Survival team! Trees for Survival (TfS) is an environmental education programme working with schools and communities to grow, nurture and plant native trees on sites such as hillsides and waterways to increase biodiversity, stabilise soil and help improve water quality.

This document provides an overview of the key seasonal activities involved in the TfS Programme and focuses on plant care, potting up seedlings and planting day. Your TfS Facilitator will help guide you through the programme.

Your local **Trees for Survival Facilitator** is your first point of contact. Please be in touch with them if you have any queries or concerns. Their role is to help guide you through the programme, liaise with landowners on site assessment and monitoring and to record and report on plant health and planting days. They are essential to the successful running of the programme and are your go to contact!

Our online Teacher Resource contains further information:

<https://www.tfsnz.org.nz/teacher-information/>

Please keep your teacher details up to date with your TfS Facilitator as the teacher running the programme within your school will also receive our e-newsletter

[www.tfsnz.org.nz](http://www.tfsnz.org.nz)

[info@tfsnz.org.nz](mailto:info@tfsnz.org.nz)

**PLANTING YEAR CALENDAR TfS operates a one-year cycle starting Aug/Sept**

Note: Timing of seasonal practises will vary regionally throughout New Zealand

Aug-Sept <b>Potting Up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potting mix and eco sourced native seedlings arrive (approx. 900)</li> <li>• Watch potting up video</li> <li>• Pot up seedlings as soon as possible and before the end of Term 3</li> <li>• Book your Facilitator in to help you with this</li> </ul>
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great - seedlings are all potted on!</li> </ul>
Nov/Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan summer holiday plant care and watering system checks</li> <li>• Facilitator pre summer visit to count plants and check shade house</li> </ul>
Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitator post summer visit to count plants and check shade house</li> <li>• Pencil a planting day date and rain date into your school calendar</li> <li>• Advise your Facilitator of your preferred dates</li> </ul>
Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaise with your Facilitator around ongoing plant care and shade house checks</li> </ul>
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitators are busy liaising with landowners, assessing and monitoring planting sites and will then confirm site and dates with landowner and school</li> <li>• Liaise with your Facilitator about adjusting your water timer to prepare plants for life after planting day - this will vary depending on seasonal conditions</li> </ul>
Lead up to <b>Planting Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make planting day transport arrangements/ bus booking</li> <li>• Send your RAMS form to your Facilitator</li> <li>• Your Facilitator will share further planting day details</li> <li>• Send out Planting Day invitation to adult help</li> <li>• Arrange plant pick up with landowner 1-2 weeks prior to planting day</li> <li>• Watch planting and safety videos</li> </ul>
May - Aug	<b>Planting Day</b>
After Planting Day - Before Seedlings Arrive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure the landowner returns all crates and planter bags to school promptly.</li> <li>• Clean and tidy up around shade house</li> <li>• Apply moss spray to shade cloth while shade house is empty</li> <li>• Set timer to run for 1 min per week to prevent sprinklers clogging</li> </ul>
All Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weed and tend plants</li> <li>• Monitor watering system for any issues</li> </ul> <p>If you have any concerns about your plants contact your Facilitator asap</p>



## SHADE HOUSE SET UP

### Purpose built shade house & irrigation

2 x purpose built shade houses measuring 3.0m x 1.5m will be delivered to and set up at your school.

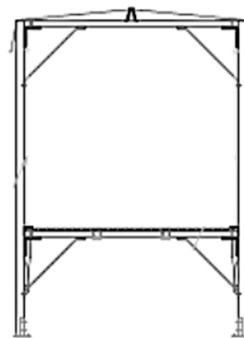
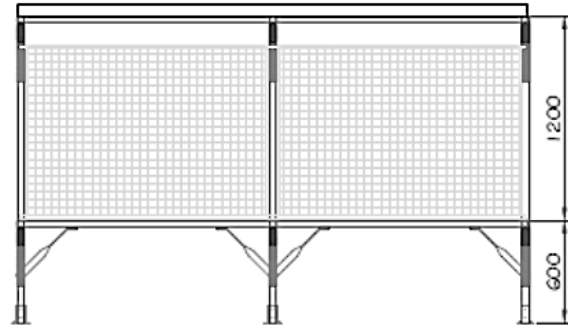
**Irrigation system (watering)** and a **timer** will also be set up.

Your school will need to help identify a, suitable well lit, level area for the shade house to be located and provide a solely dedicated **tap for the irrigation**.

It is useful to have the shade house located where it is **easy to access** on all sides.

**Plant crates** will also be delivered and go in the shade house ready for the arrival of your seedlings.

Your Facilitator will teach you how to **set your timer**.



## **AUGUST / SEPTEMBER:**

### **Potting Mix And Eco Sourced Seedlings**

Your school will receive bags of **potting mix** (store this in a safe dry area at your school) and **either a box containing trays of seedlings or seedlings may be delivered** directly to your school by the nursery. You will receive about 900 seedlings. If they are in a box take these trays out immediately and put them in the shade house with the watering system turned on for 1 minute 3 times a day. The root ball is very small and will dry out quickly so sit them on a layer of cardboard.

### **Seedlings**



### **Potting Up**

Ensure your class watches this [Instructional Video](#) prior to your potting on session. Pot the seedlings into the **TfS planter bags** as soon as possible. Do this **asap** to avoid stunting their growth and to ensure they can achieve optimal size by planting day. Book your Facilitator in to help you, and guide your set up and process to get best results. 1 or 2 sessions is more effective to complete potting up than lots of short sessions. Sponsors or school community can help to - organise a day to suit all.

Pack the bags in the **crates** - 20 to each crate. Please keep the same species in each crate. Put the crates in the shade house, keeping the same species in crates together. Set the timer for 3 minutes twice a day. Your Facilitator can advise what setting are best for your situation.



You can introduce the names of these plants to your students by labelling your crates. [Printable Label Sheet](#) (see Teacher Resource). There are lots of opportunities for curriculum based learning! Any questions please get in touch with your Facilitator.



## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

**Plant Count:** Your Facilitator will visit to count plants and check on plants and watering system before the holidays.

**Summer Holiday Watering:** This is the period of highest risk for your seedlings. Plants can die within 2 days without water. Arrange someone to check the watering system over the summer. Builders and well-meaning water savers sometimes turn off water during the holidays. Label your tap with a Do Not Turn Off Water sign.

**Shade House Checks:** What to look out for:

- **TORO TEMPUS TIMERS:** Some shade houses have Toro Tempus automatic timers. The phone App will indicate if the 9volt battery on the timer needs replacing.
- **POPE 2 DIAL TAP TIMER:** These timers have a 9volt battery. The battery indicator light will flash every 5 seconds when they are charged. If it flashes every 1 second it is almost flat and the battery must be changed at once. If there is no light, the battery has gone flat. Use good quality 9volt batteries. - a tiny Philips head screw driver is needed.
- **SPRINKLERS:** Turn the water on and look at the spray pattern coming from each nozzle. Check water is reaching all plants in the shade house. Nozzles may be blocked by algae or grit in the water pipes. Individual nozzles can be removed and cleared out with a straightened paper clip or pin then rinsed or blown through. Blocked nozzles need to be remedied urgently to avoid plant deaths. Contact your Facilitator if needed.
- **MOISTURE LEVELS:** We recommend **summer watering** twice a day, 6am and 6pm for between 3-5 minutes. Check and adjust this until you find what is best for your situation.



The potting mix should feel moist like a wrung-out kitchen sponge. Close the curtains to protect the plants from hot summer sun and wind.

**If there is an unresolved issue with your watering system, please get in touch with your Facilitator urgently. Watering problems will lead to plant deaths.**

## PLANTING DAY!

Typically the planting day is a **full day out**. Arrange to take about **30 students**. This number is manageable for landowner catering and Facilitator resources.

**Please invite adult helpers as they can be a tremendous help.** Watch the following videos in preparation for the day [Safety Video](#) and [Planting Video](#). As seen in our videos, sites may be steep, muddy and slippery. Please be aware the day may involve walking, climbing fences and steep hills, so **a reasonable level of fitness is needed**. Sites vary – check with your Facilitator.

Transport arrangements for the day are the schools responsibility and cost. Bus subsidies to assist with transport costs may become available - details on how to apply will be emailed to the teacher before the planting season begins.

## SUCCESS CRITERIA

- The Trees for Survival programme was integrated into the curriculum
- Seedlings were potted on as soon as possible after receiving them
- Shade house plants are tended throughout the growing season
- Planting day dates were set and shared with your Facilitator and Landowner before the end of March
- By May, all plants were a minimum of 30cm and sturdy enough for planting between May-Aug
- Your planting day may not go ahead if your plants numbers or size are insufficient
- If there were substantial numbers of undersized plants or plant losses the reasons for this would be identified with your Facilitator and a plan put in place to prevent this in future.
- A successful planting day was held with your community and sponsors

