

A biodegradable device protects seeds from predators and increases success in reforestation

LOCATION: Granada

DURATION: 1'23"

SUMMARY: Researchers from the University of Granada have developed a device that protects seeds from predators. It is made out of a biodegradable material and it has succeeded in an 85% of the cases in tests conducted by these researchers. It has been created for reforestation processes.

VTR:

This simple device protects seeds from predators. It has been designed by researchers from the University of Granada and increases the chances of success in reforestation.

Alexandro Leverkus
Researcher University of
Granada

"Rodents are a major problem. Mice, voles and moles eat almost all the acorns. That's why we thought that it was necessary to find a method to protect acorns and that way increasing success in oak reforestation."

The device is composed by two pieces. The substrate and the seed are placed inside, the two parts are joined and planted.

Alexandro Leverkus
Researcher University of
Granada

"The device is made out of a biodegradable material to avoid leaving waste behind and to permit the trunk growing enough once the plant gets bigger."

Jorge Castro
Researcher University of
Granada

"Biodegradable materials like PLA, which is a starch-based polymer extracted from potato or corn."

In the tests conducted until now the seeds planted inside this device have germinated in most of the cases, however, just a 30% of the ones planted without the device succeeded.

Jorge Castro
Researcher University of
Granada

"Despite rodents and wild boars, we have obtained a survival rate of around the 85% with acorns. Almost every one of them germinate and the plant grows. That is a higher success than the one reached with seedlings in reforestation."

There are no boundaries for this device, as it can be used in the reforestation of every country. Its developers are now waiting for someone to take care of the manufacturing.

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