

Climate protection with German Forest – Reforestation Ennepetal/NRW



The last dry summers had extreme effects on the native spruce. As a moisture-loving tree species of the cooler higher altitudes, the spruce was under permanent stress. The small and inconspicuous bark beetle, which has always attacked spruces, was able to multiply explosively due to the good weather. The spruce's natural defence mechanism, the beetle's „dead resin“ during the boring process, failed completely due to the low water demand. And so the bark beetle was able to spread unhindered in the large-scale spruce monocultures. In Germany, around 400,000 hectares of spruce forests were completely destroyed. This is because the beetle eats its way through the water and sugar channels in the tree. The tree starves and dries out.

Reforestation of large bare areas after bark beetle infestation in Ennepetal

This also happened in the forests southeast of Ennepetal in NRW at the Krägelohr Berg ([link to the area](#)). The spruce stock has collapsed on an area of about 38 hectares. Dried and scrawny trees line the picture. The forestry had no choice but to harvest the infested trees in order to reduce the risk of the bark beetles jumping over to healthy trees. The picture that emerges at present is devastating. The bare areas are now being successively reforested. The natural regeneration of birch, poplar, bird cherry and spruce is supplemented with site-appropriate tree species adapted to climate change. The desired mixture of deciduous tree species – hornbeam, oak, lime and mountain elm – increases biodiversity many times over and strengthens the resilience of the forest against biotic (beetles, fungi, etc.) and abiotic factors (windthrow).

The partner: Stiftung Unternehmen Wald

The bvdM commissions its partner Stiftung Unternehmen Wald to plant trees in Germany. Under the guidance of forestry experts, suitable areas are selected and planted with native and site-appropriate deciduous and coniferous species. The aim is to create mixed, species-rich and stable forests that provide a richly structured habitat for plants and animals and are adapted to climate change.

