



Having your own tree nursery has many advantages:

- it saves the cost of buying seedlings from elsewhere, and of travelling to collect them,
- you can be sure the quality is good,
- you can have seedlings ready for whenever you need them, and
- you can supply them to local community groups, school, friends and even for sale.

But establishing a nursery demands planning and work!



One of many nurseries I was shown by Makabule Yusuf on the slopes of the Elgon Mountains in Uganda. Note the roofing material which can be readily adjusted according to weather conditions.

1. Choose a site. If you have big shade trees, your nursery may need no extra protection. Otherwise, you need to construct a simple roof – see the picture.
2. Decide what species of tree seedlings you wish to produce and identify possible sources of seeds. Plan to have seeds of fruit trees and indigenous trees.
3. Set up a system of seed collection. Collect them yourself or pay villagers to collect seeds and bring them to you.
4. The seeds must be “cleaned”. That means rejecting poor quality seeds, perhaps removing them from their shells, and

checking that they are free of insects.

5. The seeds of each species of tree are different. Learn the specific needs of each one.
6. Choose and make bags (e.g. out of banana leaves or used plastic bottles) or buy bags (for example black plastic) for growing the seedlings.
7. Ensure that you have a source, plentiful source of good earth and enough water to always keep the earth moist.

Start small – and learn from your own experience and that of your friends.

I wish you success! Keith Lindsey



A nursery managed by Nelson Moyo in Malawi under the Chongoni Mountains cared for by two experienced women. The nursery includes several indigenous species and provides seedlings for community groups