



The Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO)
Is offering
an internship
drought stress and provenance tests for shrub and tree species
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The Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO) is the Flemish research and knowledge centre for nature and its sustainable management and use. INBO conducts research and supplies knowledge to all those who prepare or make the policies or are interested in them as a stakeholder.

Through its scientific research, INBO supports all agencies dealing with open space in the Flemish government, as well as in organisations involved in nature conservation, forestry, agriculture, hunting and fishery. INBO publishes its results as open data and provides data for international reporting. It participates in (inter)national research networks such as LTER, ALTER-Net, LifeWatch, ...

INBO is an unincorporated internal agency of the Flemish government.

Internship subject

The team Forest Ecology and Management is looking for a Bachelor or master student (or in training) to participate in climate research at INBO, more specifically in drought stress and provenance tests for shrub and tree species' at ILVO in Melle (Caritasstraat 39).

The internship student will be involved in

Period: Mid march – april (flexible dates)

Justification of the research

Different types of trials are being conducted to gain better knowledge of how trees and shrub species will respond to climate change. For example, with provenance tests we attempted to answer the question of whether southern origins of tree and shrub species should be planted here in anticipation of the predicted climate change. To this end, seed was harvested in 2016 from local seed sources of various shrub species according to a European north-south gradient (Sweden - Flanders - Spain). These seeds were sown and germinated in 2017 and 2018.

Two specific questions can be answered by these provenance tests:

- a) How foreign origins in Flanders behave with respect to local origins: phenology, morphology and growth are examined
- b) Determine how non-local and local origins react in an elevated temperature environment and / or in drier conditions.

Proposed internship activities:

1. Observe bud emergence on different batches of plants (including Gelderland rose, hawthorn, spork, dog rose, bird cherry, beech, blackthorn, hazel). Some batches underwent drought stress in 2020 (hawthorn, dog rose and spork). Other batches underwent a colder / warmer treatment in the spring of 2020 (Gelderland rose, hawthorn, dog rose). Goal: to determine how long the influence of a drought stress period and / or temperature treatment can be felt in the subsequent growth years
2. Observe germination on spork offspring that underwent drought stress in 2018 or 2020. Purpose: to determine whether a drought stress period affects the offspring.
3. If interested: field observations of bud emergence in a plantation in Moortsele (provenance tests of pedunculate oak and hawthorn).
4. data processing in excell or in r of the observations.

If you are interested, please contact Kristine Vander Mijnsbrugge (kristine.vandermijnsbrugge@inbo.be) who will act as your internship supervisor.

If you have general questions about an internship at INBO, you can contact Davy Verspeet:

*Davy Verspeet –
HR internship policy
0473 98 33 48
Davy.verspeet@inbo.be*

Disclaimer

The school is responsible for the insurance of the student. The student cannot invoke the INBO's occupational accident insurance as he is not covered by the employee scheme. The student must therefore report an accident to the insurance of his school.

Note to foreign students: There is no possibility of accommodation within the INBO.