



ASIAGO OLTRE VAIA PROJECT



AUTHOR

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Restoration of an FSC certified forest area affected by the storm Vaia through an experimental reforestation project.

6000 SEEDLINGS IN TOTAL

Phase 1: 870 seedlings

Phase 2: 5130 seedlings

20 clusters

8 species

3 conifers: Norway spruce, Silver fir & Larch

5 broadleaves: Beech, Birch, Whitebeam, Rowan & Goat willow

Tree name	Phase 1	Phase 2	Total number
Norway spruce	150	850	850
Silver fir	225	775	1000
Larch	120	580	700
Beech	225	1825	2050
Birch	60	340	370
Whitebeam	30	220	250
Rowan	30	270	300
Goat willow	30	270	300

Scope and main objectives

In October 2018, large areas of north-eastern Italian regions were hit by winds between 100 and 200 km/h, which strongly affected 41,000 hectares of forests. During this disturbance event, the Asiago plateau has lost 2,300 hectares of forests, of which 400 in the Municipality of Asiago.

Since there are not standard reforestation models uniquely applicable to damage from extreme weather events, the project aims to evaluate the technical solutions able to provide the best results in terms of reforestation success in situations of extensive storms.

Project main goals:

- To speed up the process of restoring the forest cover damaged by Vaia storm;
- To test different technical restoration solutions able to increase biodiversity, structural complexity and specific composition of the forest area;
- To create populations that are more resistant and resilient to natural disturbances and climatic changes effects;
- To provide an educational site to share the research activity.

Innovative approach / Results

On an area of 3 hectares in the municipality of Asiago (Italy), 6,000 seedlings have been planted using the most ecologically consistent species, together with pioneer species; the reforestation method was based on the ICO (Individual, Clumps and Openings) approach adapted to a small-scale site.

Lessons learned

In a scenario where extreme weather events will become more and more frequent, it is crucial to find restoration solutions which allow forested areas to recover from such events. The Asiago Oltre Vaia project also aims to test different solutions to increase the resilience of future forest stands in relation to climate change effects.

Location

The project, developed in collaboration with the University of Padua and other public and private partners, is located on an area of 3 hectares located on the top of Monte Mosciagh (1550 m), Municipality of Asiago, heavily hit by Vaia storm.

