

Setting up a pot trial

1 Draw up an experimental design

- **Literature** review and research
- Defining the **research question**
- **Planning**
 - Choosing suitable species and varieties
 - Experimental layout: randomisation and blocking
 - Water, fertiliser and light arrangement
 - Technique for applying biostimulants
 - Choosing substrates
- Establishing the **observation plan** and **analysis parameters**



2 Preparatory steps

- **Steaming** the substrate (potting substrate, field soil) using a pressure cooker
- **Sterilising the sand** in an oven
- Acquiring seed and **pre-treating** if needed
- Choosing suitable **pots**



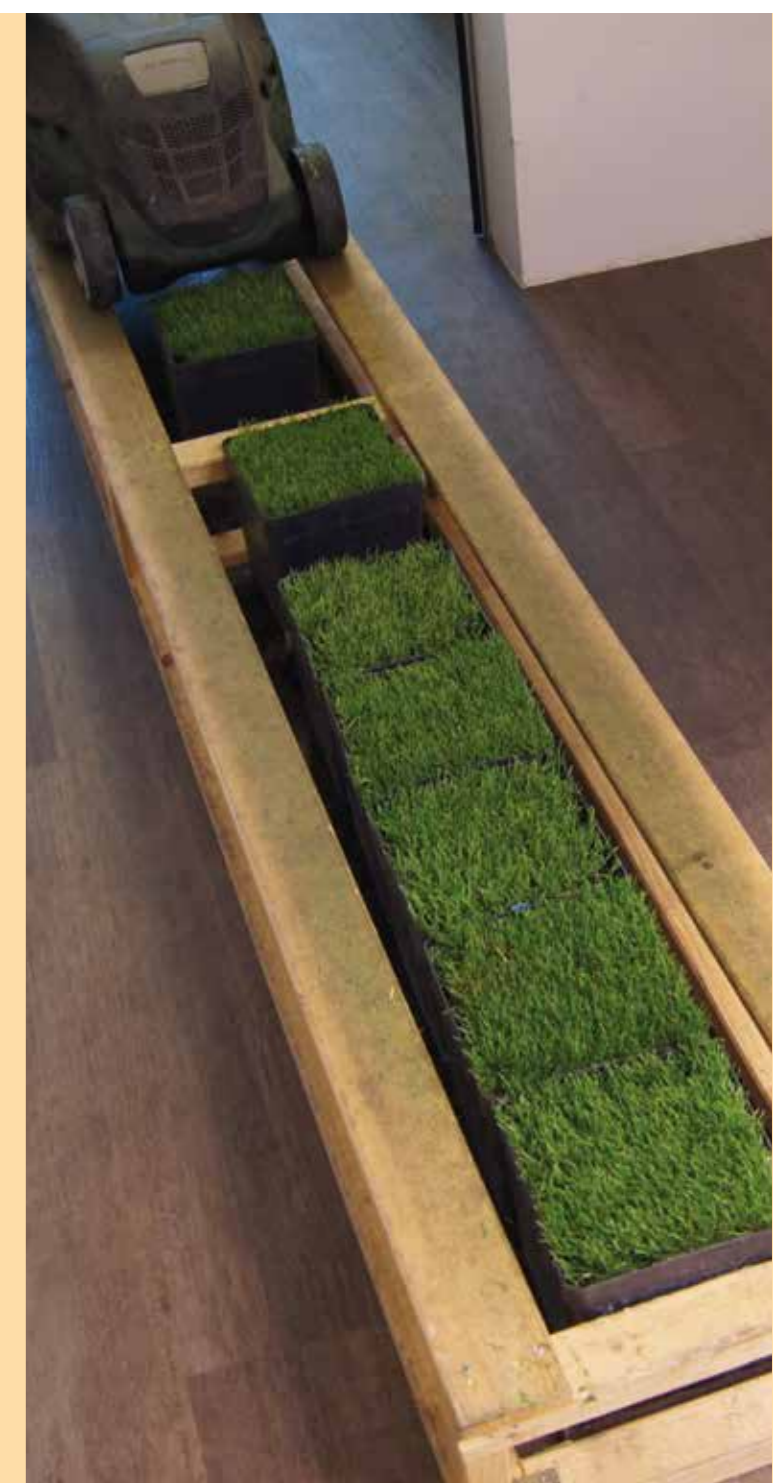
3 Setup

- **Filling** the pots with the chosen substrate, mixing in additional substances as necessary
- **Treating** seeds with biostimulants/ RhizoFix®
- Watering the pots and **sowing** seeds



4 Upkeep and observation

- **Observing** pots following a pre-established observation plan
- Photographic **documentation**
- Fertilising as needed and/or according to the test approach
- Mowing, staking, etc.



5 Harvest

- Final observation with photographic **documentation**
- **Determining** shoot and root biomass
- **Nutrient analysis**
- **Microbiological tests:** e.g., to detect endophytes in the plant material
- **Determining and documenting** additional parameters/characteristics of importance for the research question



6 Evaluation

- Summarising the results in a **trial report**
- Preparing a graphical **presentation** and statistical **evaluation** of the data obtained
- **Data interpretation**
- Planning potential follow-up trials

