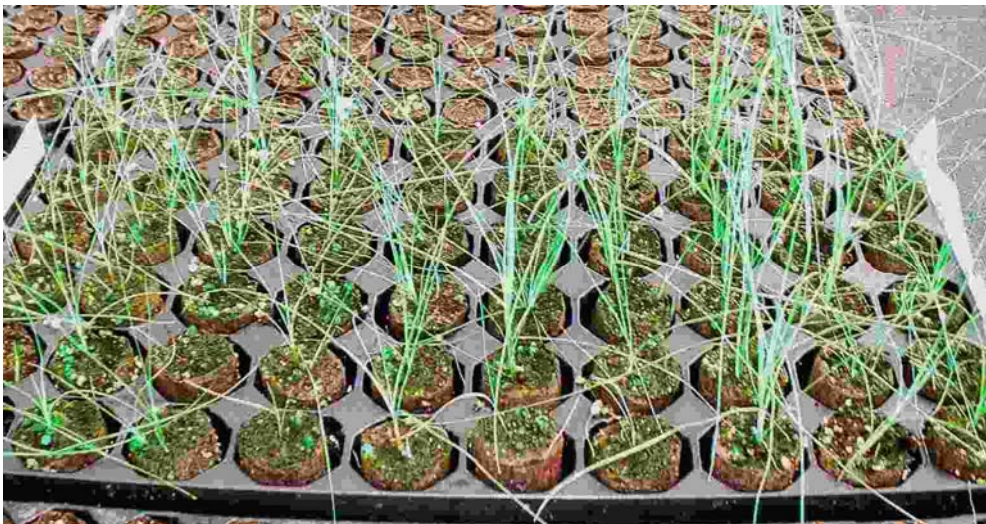


Moors for the Future Plant Propagation Project

1. Propagation of 100,000 moorland plants of 5 species *Rubus chamaemorus* (cloudberry), *Eriophorum vaginatum* (Hare's-tail cotton-grass), *E. angustifolium* (common cotton-grass), *Vaccinium myrtillus* (bilberry) and *Empetrum nigrum* (crowberry).
2. These are being produced by micro-propagation from material collected from sites above 450metres within the Dark Peak SSSI.
3. The species were chosen for two reasons:
 - a. Increasing the biodiversity of the site, the species chosen are significant components of the moorland vegetation communities;
 - b. The structural value of the species. Each species has either rhizomes or extensive surface growth that work like the heather brush and geo-textiles currently in use by the project to stabilise the surface.
4. The best locations (aspect, gully slope etc) for the various species are currently under investigation in a pilot project on Sykes Moor on the Bleaklow massif.
5. The contract for the supply and planting of the plugs in 2005/6 has been awarded to Specimen Trees, following an open tender procedure.
6. Specimen Trees have carried out similar work in the past for Transco in the Brecon Beacons.
7. They are working closely with who are advising on appropriate soils to use and the University of Sheffield who is assisting with an investigation of inoculating with appropriate endo-mycorrhizas for more effective establishment of the species.
8. The plants are due to be planted at various moorland areas damaged by fire across the Dark Peak, including Bleaklow, Black Hill, Kinder Scout and will also be used to aid the re-vegetation of restored path sides.
9. Further information contact : matt.buckler@peakdistrict.gov.uk



cottongrass seedlings