



SOWING BUTTERCUPS TO REGENERATE SOILS

Title	Sowing buttercups to regenerate the soil.
Skills	- creativity and craftsmanship; - social and civic competences; - scientific knowledge;
Topics	- education for sustainable development; - vocational training; - sustainable urbanisation; - horticultural techniques;
Target Groups	- boys and girls (3-11 years); - people with special needs; - young people (12-25 years);
Brief description	The buttercup is a branching herbaceous plant that can grow up to 5 metres in height and is easily recognisable by its yellow flowers. This plant is considered a dynamic accumulator as it performs the important function of absorbing minerals in the inorganic state and disposing of them in the organic state from its leaves, which, once decomposed in the soil, become assimilable for our crops. Buttercup leaves provide a good percentage of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium and also act as a repellent for the army ant. It is important to note that this plant can be constantly pruned for use as green manure, directly shading the soil of the crop.
Objectives	- Identify buttercup as an ally for sustainable garden soil. - Find out how to propagate buttercup in our cultivation.
Materials	For sowing: - An adult buttercup plant - referibilmente organic fertiliser For the soil: - A hoe, shovel or pitchfork For pruning: - Machete and/or pruning shears
Implementation	Step by step:





	1- Identify a buttercup plant, which can be found in nature or in a nearby orchard. 2- Take mature cuttings about 50 cm long from the plant, cutting each cutting with a sharp tool at a 45 degree angle. 3- Locate a planting space close to our crop, where a planting furrow can be made. 4- We loosen the soil in the furrow where we will sow the buttercup. 5- We mark the position of each plant, in this case we keep a distance of 50 cm between the plants. 6- We add organic fertiliser where each plant will go. 7- Bury the cuttings in the planting furrow, each about 20 cm deep. 8- Water abundantly. 9- When the plants reach about 2 metres, we can start pruning them, adding the leaves directly to the soil of our crop.
Evaluation	- Observe over the next three weeks if the cuttings start to sprout, otherwise replant another cutting. - Assessing crop productivity and soil quality, using buttercup forage as a cover crop.
Tips	- When designing your garden, create aisles of plants such as buttercups near the flower beds, so that they can be used constantly as green manure. - When pruning a hedge, it is preferable to do it in the early morning or late afternoon so that the plants are less stressed. - Always use sharp tools to avoid damaging the structure of the plant. - By pruning, we can shape each plant so that it is easier to move around the orchard and arrange the leaves on the crop.

