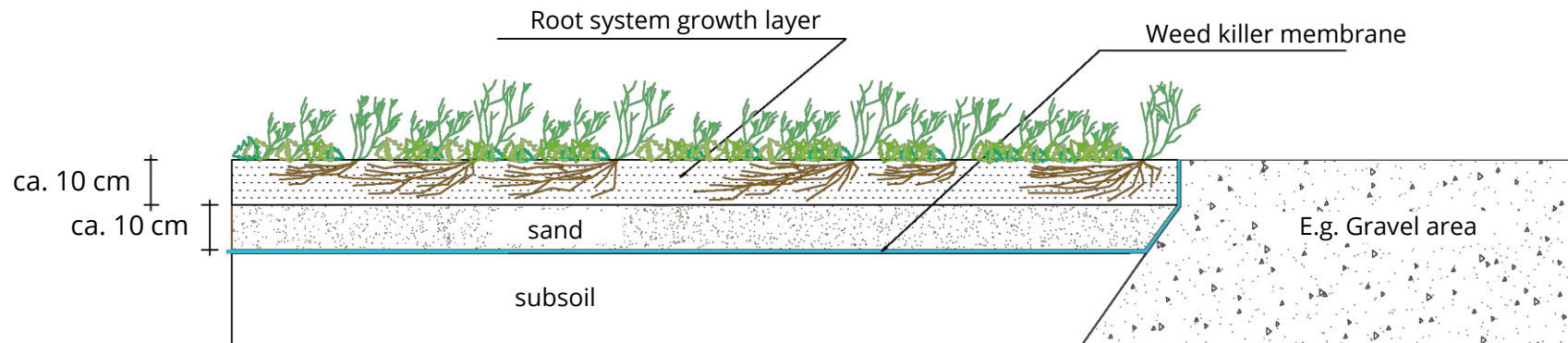


## Soil requirements

- Forest mat requires an acid subsoil that is low in nutrients and binds moisture but also allows excess moisture to drain through it. The best base for forest mat is fine sand or moraine, which maintains even moisture levels and due to low nutrient content prevents weed growth.
- If the base is natural moraine or sandy soil, forest mat can be laid directly upon it if this base is free of vegetation.
- If the base contains clay, earth, other nutrient-rich soil or vegetation, it must be removed and/or a membrane must be rolled over it to prevent the growth of weeds. Spread a 10 cm thick layer of fine sand on top of the membrane.
- Coarse surfaces such as crushed aggregate and crushed stone need a layer of sand. Base layers that drain water too well such as quarry gravel, may require a moisture-proof layer (for example clay soil) or at least a thick layer of fine sandy moraine.
- If the base soil contains a little weed growth but is otherwise suitable for forest mat, the weeds can be removed with weed killer (a few weeks before laying the transplant) and/or by digging them out.
- Forest mat cannot be laid directly on top of the soil. This is because weeds will grow well among the forest floor vegetation and at worst, use up the space needed by the forest floor shrubs.

## Work and materials

- A suitable membrane/fabric is, for example, root barrier, landscaping fabric or other protective materials. We mainly use the Plantex® Weedmax 68g weedkiller mat, which prevents the growth of weeds and decomposes over time.
- Suitable sand is fine-grained, or moraine taken directly from a gravel pit, if it does not contain too many large stones, vegetation, clay and other nutrients. Small stones among the moraine do not matter.
- The fabric/membrane should be spread over the area, making sure that seams overlap and then covered with an approximately 10 cm layer of sand.
- When preparing the base, it is worth noting the height of the surface once forest mat has been laid. The root system growth layer (not including forest mat shrubs) is about 10 cm thick.





Example of groundwork: A landscape fabric has been spread over the area reserved for forest mat, and it has been covered with an approximately 10 cm layer of fine sand.