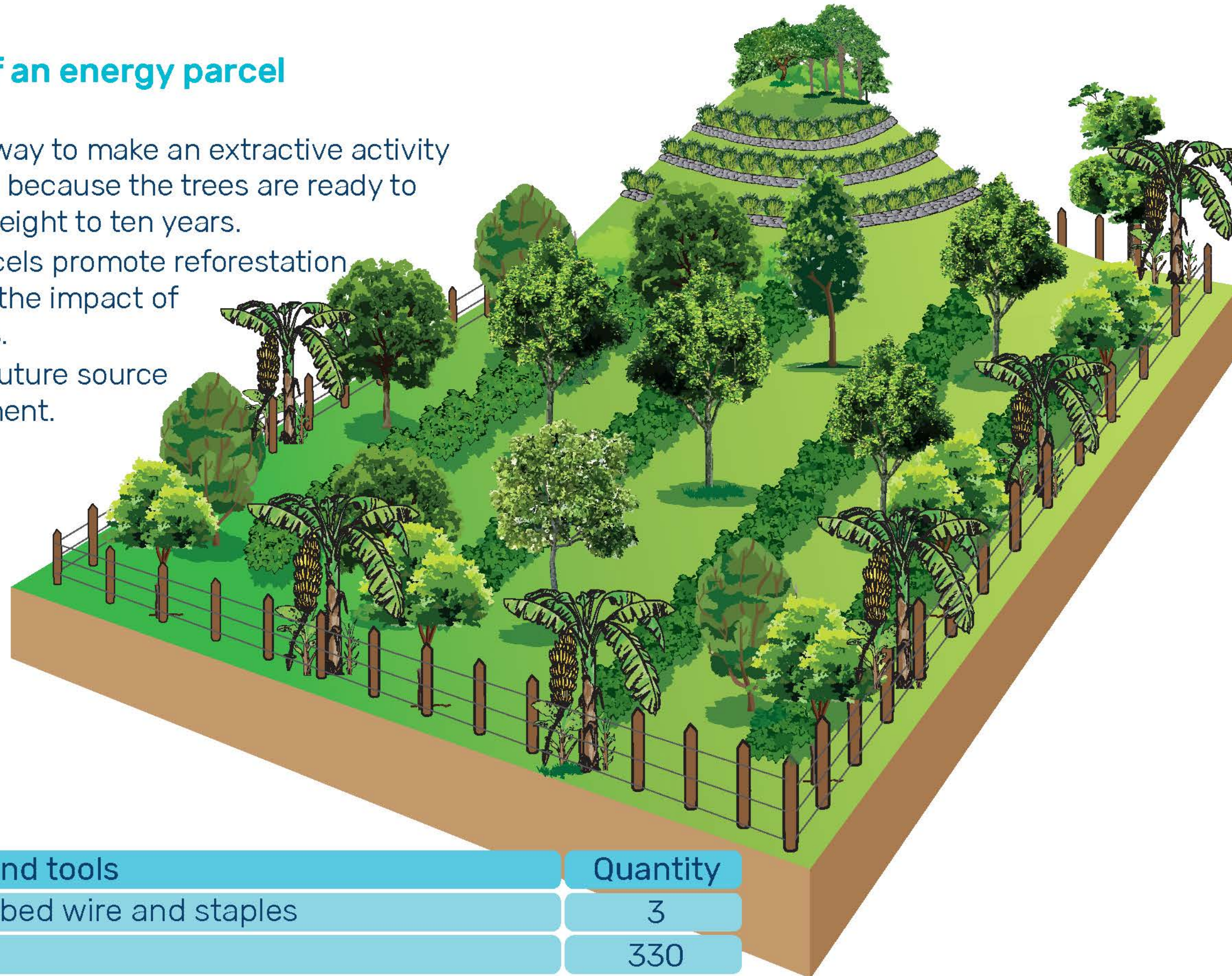
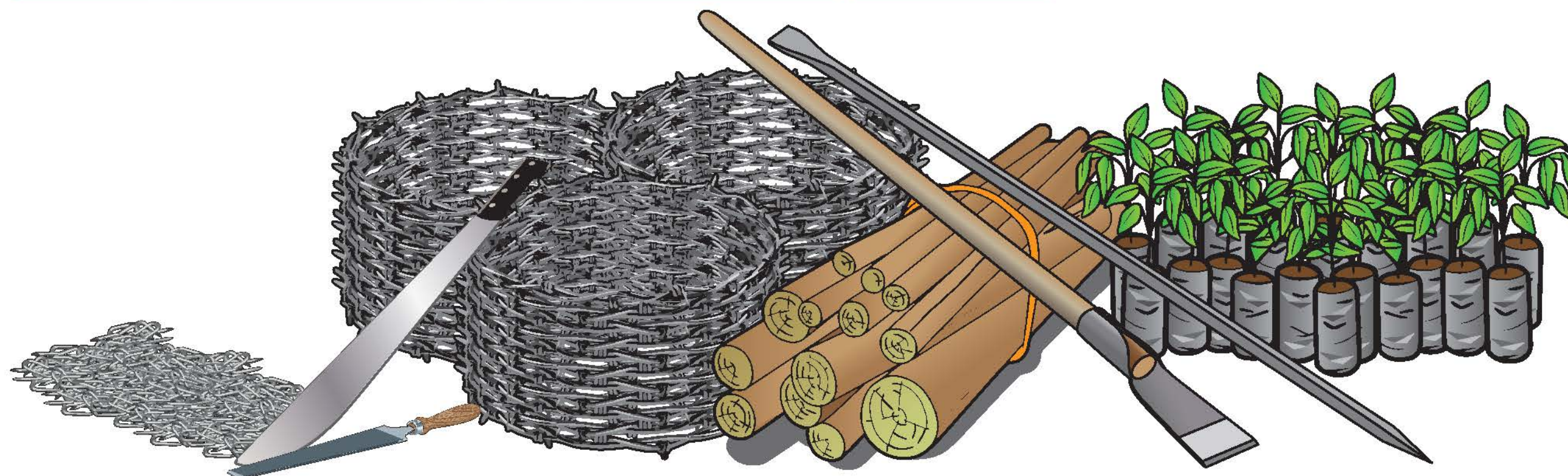


Purpose of an energy parcel

- They are a way to make an extractive activity sustainable because the trees are ready to be felled in eight to ten years.
- Energy parcels promote reforestation and lessen the impact of felling trees.
- It will be a future source of employment.



Materials and tools	Quantity
Rolls of barbed wire and staples	3
Plants	330
Wooden posts	115
Tool kit (machete, file, digging bar)	1



Recommendations

- The person should own their own land and have at least half a manzana (0.35 ha).
- Nature likes variety. You should not plant just one variety, because if a pest specific to that variety invades, you can lose the entire plantation.
- Look for fast growing varieties that are adapted to the area and are good for firewood or charcoal.
- In the first year, you can plant beans or marrows in the rows, and later plant velvet beans to fertilise the plot.
- To make the investment profitable, in addition to fuelwood varieties you can plant fruit trees. It's even better if they're grafted because they start to produce after around three or four years.
- Other farmers choose to plant a diversified forest with fuelwood, precious wood, fruit trees and plantain so that they'll be producing from the second year up to the 30th.
- As always, during the first year, a certain amount of plants are lost due to various reasons. You'll need to replace the plants as they die so as not to leave empty spaces in the plot.
- If your plot is on a significant slope, it's good to build soil and water conservation works like organic and inorganic barriers.
- If you have problems with leaf-cutter ants, one way to control them is to bring dirt from a different ant hill and put it onto the ant hill that's affecting you.
- It's always advisable to fertilise once a year, putting compost around each tree.

Step by step: Starting an energy parcel

1. Choose and prepare the terrain

- It can be level ground or on a slope. It is best if it's not too far from home and is easy to water in case of a prolonged drought.
- Before planting you should clear the plot and make a firebreak around it.

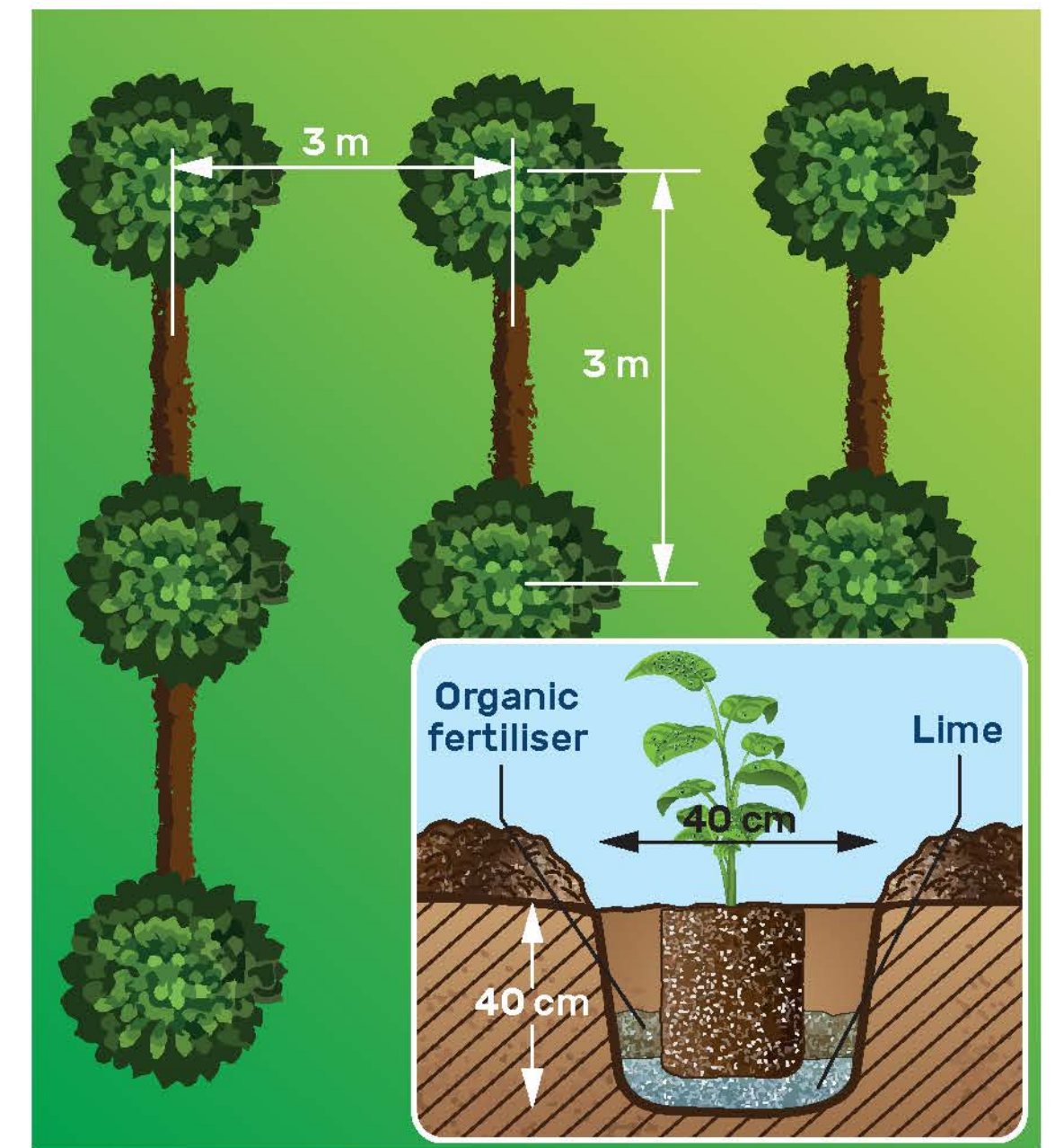


- Build a fence with posts and three rows of barbed wire so that animals won't get in.



2. Holes

- Plant the fruit trees at a distance of three metres on the ridge by three metres between ridges. Following this spacing, you can fit 330 plants into half a manzana (0.35 ha).
- Dig holes 40 centimetres wide by 40 centimetres deep. Place a layer of lime or ash and another layer of organic fertiliser at the bottom.



3. Placing the plantain

- It's better to plant plantain in a corner or on the sides because, as it grows faster, its shadow could affect the growth of the other trees.



4. Clearing

- During the first two years, you'll need to cut back the weeds two or three times during the rainy season. After the third year, one clearing is enough.
- During the dry season, you can cut-back once at the beginning and leave the weed cuttings as mulch.



5. Watering

- During the dry season, especially during the first year, you need to water the plants every two or three days.
- If you have a bio-filter, you can use the filtered water from the bio-filter for watering.

