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Development of a non-destructive method for assessing species purity in Euro-Mediterranean firs.

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Plantations of Mediterranean firs are increasing in Europe because they are more resistant to drought than the native silver fir.

However, all the Euro-Mediterranean species (8 species in total) have the capacity to hybridize with each other, which can create difficulties in guaranteeing the species. A simple, rapid and economical method is proposed to evaluate the hybridization rate among seeds intended for nurseries. Genotyping will confirm the predicted hybridization. This study is done for the European project "Optforests" about the harnessing forest resources for the forest of tomorrow.