# HOW TREES TALK TO EACH OTHER

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the foundation of forests

pathways connect trees and allow them to communicate and to behave as a single organism

world of infinite biological pathways

sort of intelligence

## Childhood story

#### Early career

Studied forestry

• Worked alongside the powerful people in charge of the commercial harvest

Went back to school

# The research

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She grew 80 replicates of three species: paper birch, Douglas fir, and western red cedar. She gathered her apparatus: bought some plastic bags and duct tape and shade cloth, a timer, a paper suit, a respirator.



And then she borrowed some high-tech stuff from the university: a Geiger counter, a scintillation counter, a mass spectrometer, microscopes.



Some dangerous stuff: syringes full of radioactive carbon-14 carbon dioxide gas and some high-pressure bottles of the stable isotope carbon-13 carbon dioxide gas.



### How trees communicate?



#### Experiment #2

They grew mother trees with kin and stranger's seedlings. And it turns out they do recognize their kin.

Mother trees colonize their kin with bigger mycorrhizal networks. They send them more carbon below ground. They even reduce their own root competition to make elbow room for their kids. When mother trees are injured or dying, they also send messages of wisdom on to the next generation of seedlings.

## ADVICES

1. First, we all need to get out in the forest.

To save our old-growth forests.

2.

- 3. We do cut, we need to save the legacies
- 4. To regenerate our forests with a diversity of species and genotypes and structures by planting and allowing natural regeneration.

#### Useful expressions





## thank you for your attention

