Life Terra

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Miyawaki Forest or Tiny Urban Forest

The city's green revolution!

The Miyawaki Reforestation Method is one of the **most effective methods** for rapidly creating **forest cover** on abandoned or degraded land that has been used for other purposes, such as agriculture or construction.

Its effectiveness is based on the principles of natural reforestation, i.e. using trees native to the area and replicating the natural regeneration processes of forests. When a clearing opens up in the upper stratum of a forest, the youngest trees grow very fast to compete for light, and the best adapted and fastest growing will survive through natural selection.

The Miyawaki Method recreates these conditions to promote the ecological restoration of degraded land by implementing very high density forests that **increase the rate of regeneration by up to 10 times** .

Benefits

Maintenance free. They do not require chemical fertilisers or fertilisers, nor pruning. Only irrigation must be ensured during the first 4 years until the plant cover has settled.

Fight droughts. Miyawaki forests reduce the heat island effect in urban areas and reduce water consumption.

Rapid land restoration. This technique makes it possible to restore degraded areas in 5 to 15 years.

Improvement of the chemical soil composition by providing organic matter.

Natural and fast carbon sink.

Increased biodiversity. Its density and production of flowers and fruit will attract large numbers of pollinators and other local fauna.

Passive restoration of surrounding land. The large number of species used serves to passively restore surrounding land through seed dispersal.

Positive visual impact and SDG compliance

Life Terra is co-financed by the European Commission through the LIFE Programme (LIFE19 CCM/NL/001200)

Preparation phase

1. **Soil analysis** to identify nutrient deficiencies and organic matter levels.

2. **Selection of native species** adapted to local conditions.
   - Minimum of 12 different species
   - 50% trees and 50% shrubs to ensure cover in different strata.

3. **Land preparation**
   - Subsoiling (30-50cm) to aerate, break surface soil crust and remove existing pioneer vegetation.
   - Application of organic amendment (2-3 kg per m2)
   - Mixing by scarification

4. **Planting of trees and shrubs**
   - Density of 3-5 plants per square metre
   - Random order of species to encourage natural competition
   - Mulching over the entire surface (3-5 cm). It is recommended to use local prunings to increase the circularity values.

5. **Placement of secondary structures**
   - Fencing
   - Access gate(s)
   - Information sign

6. **Irrigation during the first four years**
   - 5 L/m2
   - 2-3 times per week except in wet months
   - After four years, only support by watering in the warmer months

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Life Terra and the Miyawaki Forests

Las Rozas, Madrid (Spain)

Planting event with 20 people with intellectual disabilities from the Trébol Foundation and with political representatives to restore a degraded urban site, combining environmental and social action. More than 3,000 plants of 19 different species were planted to form an urban garden for the use and enjoyment of residents, with fruit trees.

Granja Caimito, Córdoba (Spain)

Planting event with 13 volunteers of 0.6 hectares for the passive restoration of a dehesa in Cordoba. 28,500 plants of 19 different species were planted, making it the largest Miyawaki Forest in the Iberian Peninsula.

Toulouse, France

Planting event with 368 participants, including several pupils from a local school, to restore a 0.9 hectare peri-urban site and increase the biodiversity values of the city. 5,000 plants of 14 different species were planted, combining mixed copses with Miyawaki forests.

Nice, France

Planting event with 18 participants, including political representatives, to restore a 0.03 hectare former car park. 2,810 plants of 12 different species were planted to form a small lung and carbon sink in the city.

Get in touch at contact@lifeterra.eu

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