

# Little Forest Kit



**LOWER TRENT**  
CONSERVATION

Little Forests, also known as Miyawaki Forests, are small densely planted urban forests. Dr. Akira Miyawaki developed this dense planting method to restore natural vegetation on degraded lands. They have been widely planted in Japan and elsewhere for over 40 years and recently arrived in Canada. Little Forests require sourcing native plants, making soil improvements, planting 2+ trees per square meter, mulching, temporary fencing, and watering and weeding. Given all the work, getting the community together to plant a Little Forest is a great idea!

**The Little Forest kit is designed to be densely planted in a 4x4 m area with 2-3 trees/shrubs per square meter. Detailed planting instructions are included.**



	Common Name	Species Name	Layer	Quantity*
1	American hazelnut	<i>Corylus americana</i>	Shrub	1
2	American basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>	Tree	2
3	American plum	<i>Prunus americana</i>	Shrub	3
4	Bitternut hickory	<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	Tree	3
5	Black cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Tree	3
6	Buffaloberry	<i>Shepherdia canadensis</i>	Shrub	1
7	Bur oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Tree	2
8	Butternut**	<i>Juglans cinera</i>	Tree	1
9	Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Shrub	4
10	Pogoda dogwood	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	Shrub	2
11	Red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Tree	2
12	Red oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Tree	1
13	Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	Shrub	3
14	Smooth rose	<i>Rosa blanda</i>	Shrub	1
15	Sugar maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Tree	3
16	White birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	Tree	3
17	White oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	Tree	1
18	White pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	Tree	2
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38</b>

\* Species may vary depending on over-winter survival of stock. Potted plants are about 30-60+ cm tall.

\*\* Genetically tested and verified to be native butternut stock.

# Planting Instructions

**What:** Little Forest Kits contain 38 native trees and shrubs representing 18 different species common to the Lower Trent watershed and Bay of Quinte region.

**Why:** Native plants from the local ecological food web, support more biodiversity and wildlife than non-native plants. Dense planting encourages trees to grow upward more quickly and share resources.

**Where:** Plant in full or part-sun (4 to 6+ hours of direct sunlight) in well-draining soils.

**When:** Plant in early June. If you can't plant right away, water the plants and keep them in the shade.

**Who:** Plants are provided by Grow Wild Native Plant Nursery (in Omeme).

**How:** Follow the **Miyawaki Forest planting method** outlined below.

1. Source native tree and shrubs representative of your local forests. This kit includes common native species found in upland forests of the Lower Trent watershed region.
2. Check the soil type, moisture, soil organic content and compaction. If necessary, increase organic content by adding leaves or compost to improve water holding capacity and soil microorganism diversity. Till the soil if compaction is severe.
3. Use the recommended planting plan below.
4. Recruit volunteers, ensuring that kids are involved. Create signage to tell the story of your Little Forest.
5. Have fun planting, randomly placing all the different species of trees and shrubs.
6. Apply mulch (eg. straw, woodchips). Put up temporary fencing to prevent trampling of seedlings as young trees establish.
7. Water and weed as necessary in the first 2-3 years.

4 meters

