

Little Forest Kit

Little Forests are small densely planted groupings of native trees and shrubs. Dr. Akira Miyawaki developed this planting method to restore degraded urban lands in Japan. Little Forests or Miyawaki Forests, are popular in Asia and are now being introduced to Canada. Little Forests require making soil improvements, sourcing native plants, planting 2 to 3 trees and shrubs per square meter, mulching, temporary fencing, watering and weeding.

This Little Forest Kit should be planted in a 4x4 m area with 2-3 trees and shrubs per square meter. Planting instructions are included.

	Common Name	Species Name	Layer	Quantity*
1	American hazelnut	<i>Corylus americana</i>	Shrub	2
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	Grey dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</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
			TOTAL	38

* 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.



LOWER TRENT
CONSERVATION

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 more quickly and share resources.

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

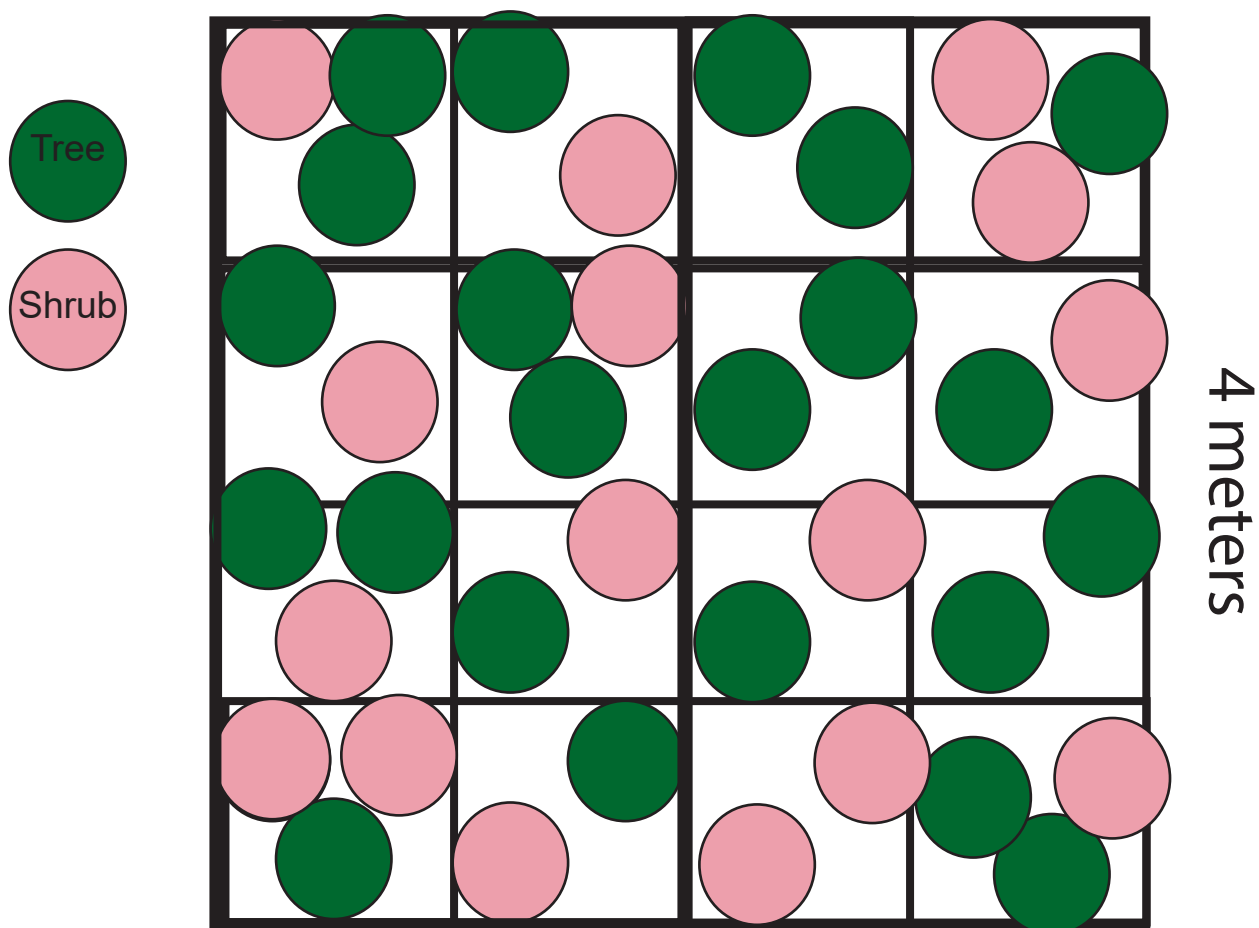
When: Plant in early June. If you can't plant right away, water the plants and keep them in the shade.

Who: Plants are grown by Grow Wild Native Plant Nursery (in Omemee).

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

Little Forest Planting Instructions

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 layout shown below.
4. Recruit volunteers, ensuring that kids are involved. Create signage to tell the story of your Little Forest. Have fun planting, randomly placing all the different species of trees and shrubs.
5. Apply mulch (eg. straw, woodchips). Put up temporary fencing to prevent trampling/browse of saplings as young trees establish.
6. Water and weed as necessary in the first 2-3 years.





The Little Forest Kit includes 18 species of native trees and shrubs. There are 38 small potted saplings in the kit. The whole kit can fit in the back of a passenger car when carefully stacked.



At the proposed planting spot, about 4x4m in size, check the soil type and moisture to make sure it is well draining. If the soil is compacted, increase organic content by adding leaves or compost and loosening the soil with a pitch fork. Till the soil if compaction is severe. Put down cardboard to smother grass and apply mulch on top of the cardboard.



Use the recommended Little Forest planting instructions above. Have fun planting into the soil, randomly placing all the different species of trees and shrubs 2-3 plants per square meter.



Put up temporary fencing to prevent browsing of saplings by animals (eg. hares, deer) as the trees establish.
Use white rodent guards on seedlings that are big enough to support them.
Water and weed regularly in the first 2-3 years.

Thank you to the Warkworth Little Forest group for sharing their photos!

