

SOP – SAPLING ARRANGEMENT

In the Miyawaki method of forest creation, there are no pre-planned planting positions. The goal is to achieve the following:

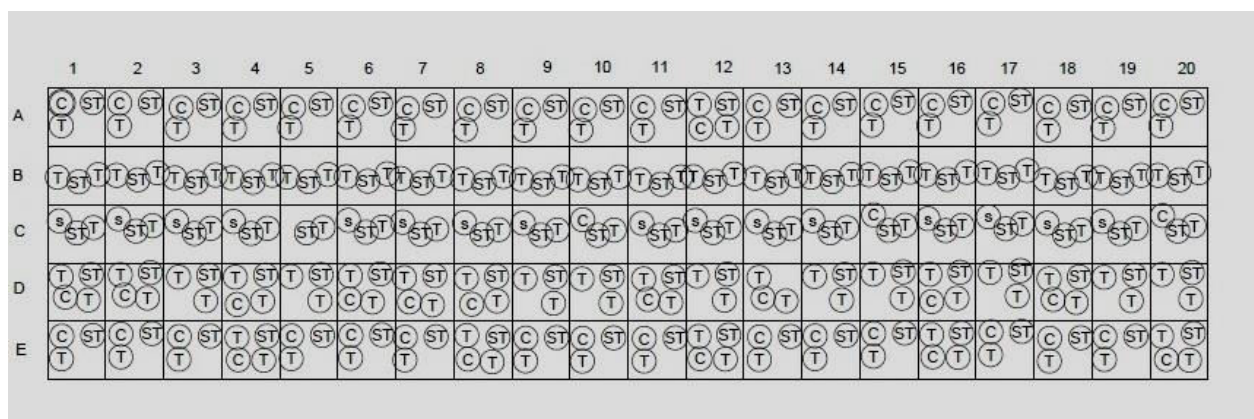
- 1) Selection of the right species.
- 2) Fixing the correct ratio for each specie, carefully balancing the different forest layers and ensuring that our forest has all the desired qualities of a natural forest.
- 3) Mix up the species and plant them "randomly" so as to create a dense multi layered forest.

The **random** sapling arrangement is important to ensure that a "forest" gets created in the truest sense. This ensures natural competition, cooperation and selection.

The simplest definition of the Miyawaki Method, *by the book*, is - **random and dense plantation of native tree species**.

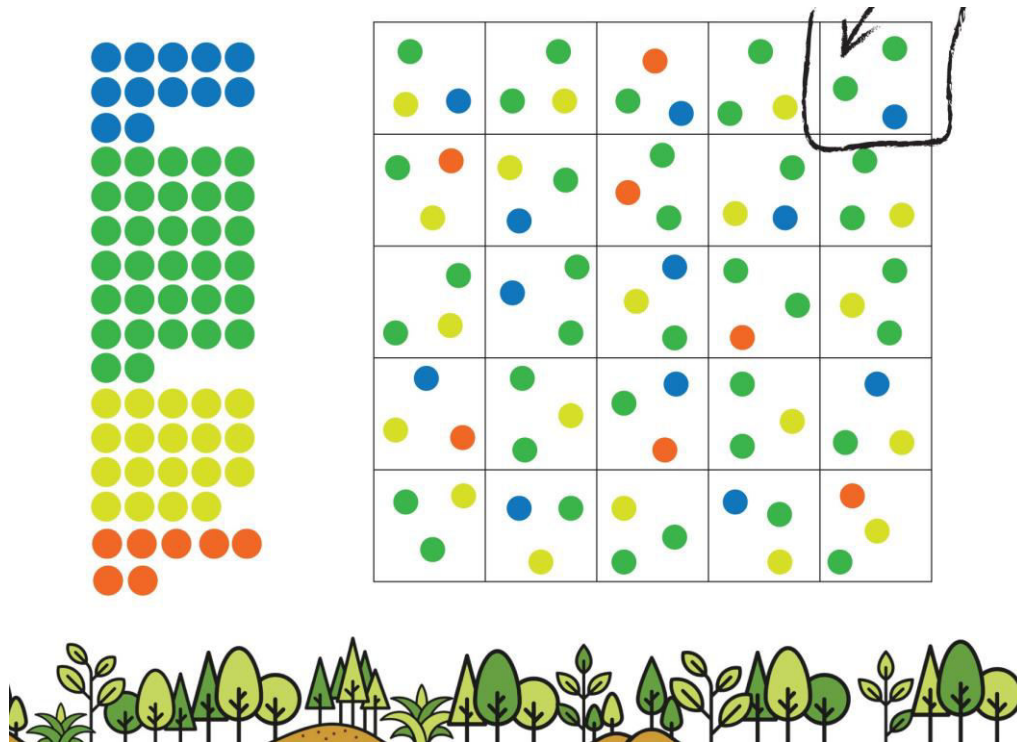
The forest is created in units of 100 square meters. Each 100 square meter patch is referred to as a **mound**. Every new mound has all the species selected, according to the ratios fixed. However, the arrangement needs to keep changing. Thus, if Mango (Mangifera Indica) is one of the species, and 6 individual mango saplings are to be planted per mound, then the position of Mango on every new mound should be different.

Once the soil is prepared, the saplings are mixed and randomly arranged to ensure that all the forest layers get distributed throughout the mound. Thus, a good distribution of layers will look something like this:



In the image above, T refers to Tree, ST refers to Sub Tree, C refers to Canopy and S refers to Shrub

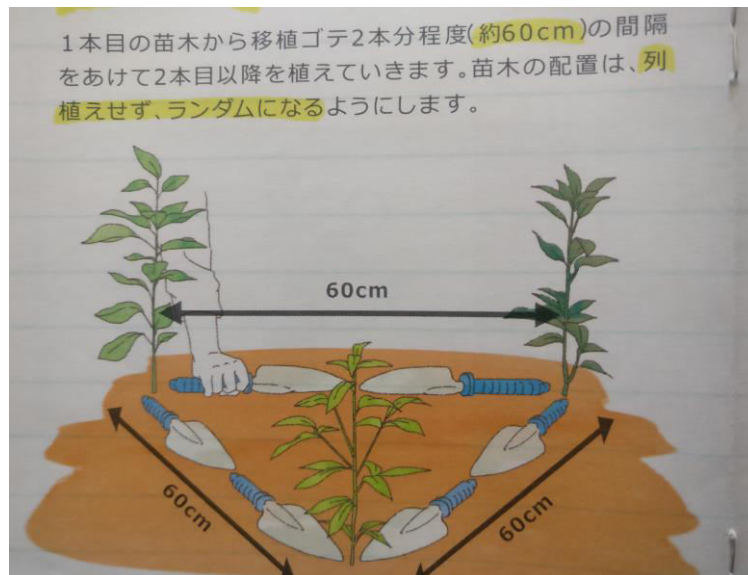
For the sake of being more visual, it looks like this:



In the graphic above, every distinct colored dot denotes a different forest layer

As thumb rules:

- 1) We maintain a distance of 60 cm between saplings, for as long as possible. As the mound starts getting filled up, at many places the distance will be less:



- 2) The sapling arrangement should look more **zig-zag** than linear.
- 3) We should *try not* to place two saplings of the **same type** next to each other. E.g. Neem (*Azadirachta indica*) next to a Neem . However, sometimes such situations are not avoidable, since the density is high. In such situations, one of the *Neems* will naturally dominate the other.
- 4) At many places on the mound, two saplings of the **same layer** might fall next to each other. Such clashes are natural, since we are only working with 4 layers. Let's not forget that the layers are not equal in proportion. For e.g. percentage-wise in most places, Tree>Sub Tree>Canopy>Shrubs

Before plantation, sapling spreading on every *mound* looks like this:



Thus, when the forest grows, it looks as wild and dense as any natural forest. Here are some photographs of our grown forests:

