

A photograph of a lush, green forest. The foreground is filled with dense, low-lying vegetation, including various green leaves and small white flowers. The background consists of numerous tall, slender tree trunks and a thick canopy of green leaves, creating a sense of depth and a vibrant natural environment.

Miyawaki Forest

Biodiversity Monitoring & Conservation

Insights into ecological restoration and
biodiversity at Babson College



What is a Miyawaki Forest?

A Miyawaki Forest is a densely planted native woodland designed to accelerate natural forest development. Developed by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, the method uses a diverse mix of locally native trees and shrubs planted much closer together than in conventional landscaping. This density encourages competition for sunlight, promoting rapid vertical growth while creating a multilayered forest structure. Once established, Miyawaki forests require minimal maintenance, and provide ecological benefits such as carbon sequestration, stormwater management, urban cooling, and habitats for wildlife.

The Babson College Miyawaki Forest is a high-density planting of native New England trees and shrubs, such as black oak, chokeberry, serviceberry, red maple, blueberry, yellow birch, white pine, and more. Using the Miyawaki method, over 150 plants and shrubs were planted on Earth Day 2026 (April 24). The forest is expected to establish rapidly, developing into a self-sustaining ecosystem within 2-3 years of planting. The forest is supported daily by our Grounds department and bimonthly health surveys are conducted by the Babson Greenworks team. This report contains those findings.



MIYAWAKI FOREST PLANTING DAY

April 24th, 2026

At Publishers Hall, a new microforest takes root

Dozens of volunteers came together on Earth Day 2026 with Babson Greenworks and the Babson Facilities Team to plant shrubs and trees at Babson's Publishers Hall. The new microforest features 150+ plants in a 1,000 sq ft space. The forest is densely-planted on purpose; the plants will naturally compete for resources, just as they do in a natural forest.

The benefits of planting a microforest on campus are numerous. The forest will sequester carbon, clean the air, decrease stormwater runoff, and increase wildlife habitats. It also functions as a living laboratory for students, faculty, and staff to investigate ways green infrastructure and ecological stewardship can improve environmental outcomes.



Monitoring a Living Ecosystem

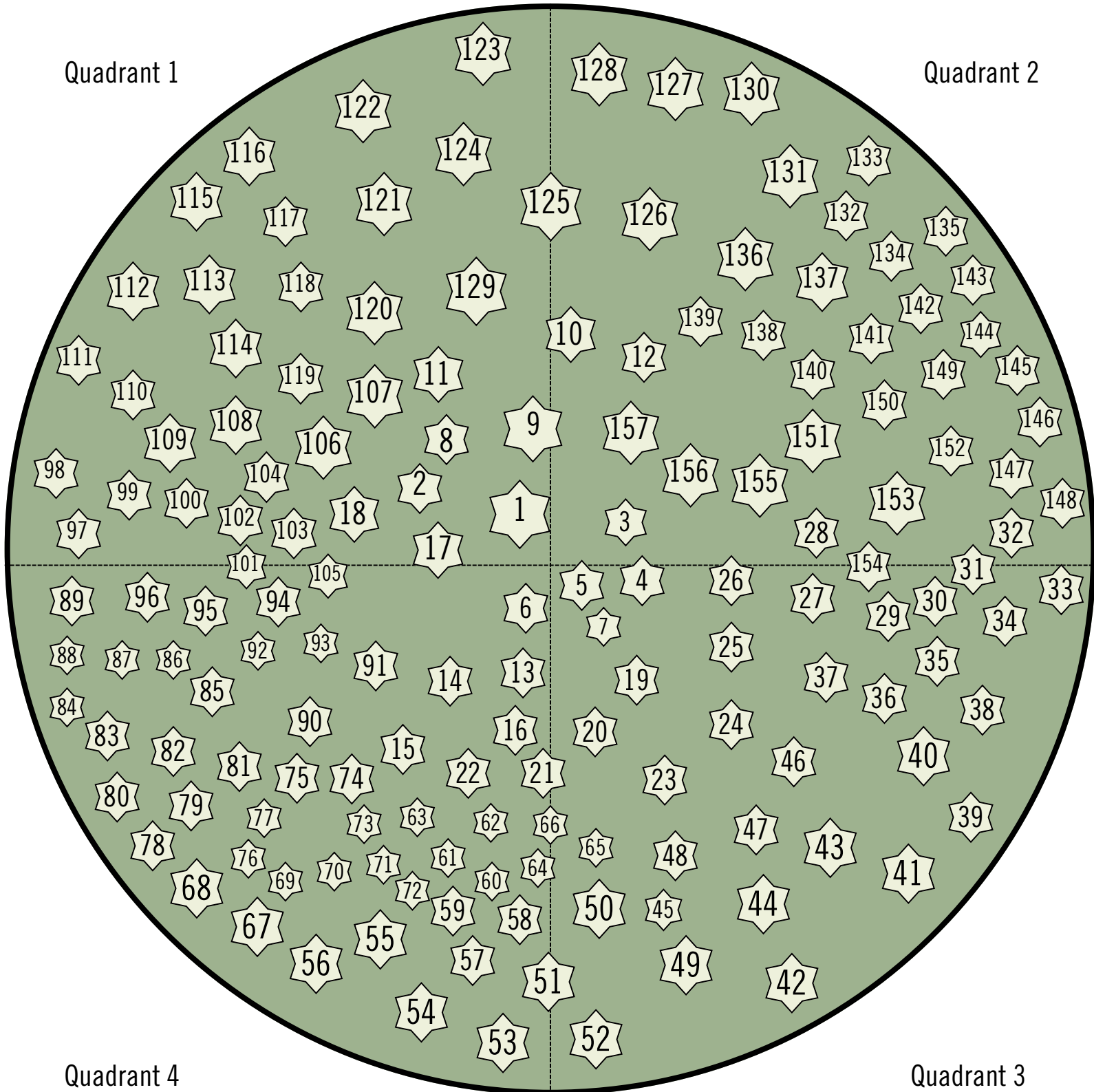


Ecological restoration does not end when the last tree is planted. Regular monitoring allows the Babson Greenworks team to evaluate survival rates, measure plant growth, document biodiversity, and assess the forest's resilience over time. These data establish a long-term baseline that will help guide future management decisions while demonstrating the ecological benefits of the Miyawaki method on campus.

MIYAWAKI FOREST MAP

Legend begins on following page

↑ Publisher's Hall ↑



Plant #	Common Species	Scientific Name
1	Witch Hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>
2	Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier</i>
3	Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier</i>
4	Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
5	Eastern White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>
6	Witch Hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>
7	Black Oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>
8	Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>
9	Arrowwood	<i>Arrowwood viburnum</i>
10	Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
11	Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier</i>
12	Nannyberry	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>

Plant #	Common Species	Scientific Name
13	Yellow Birch	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>
14	Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>
15	Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>
16	Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
17	Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
18	Hazelnut	<i>Corylus americana</i>
19	Yellow Birch	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>
20	Elderberry	<i>Sambucus</i>
21	Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
22	Honeysuckle	<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>
23	Nannyberry	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>
24	Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>

Plant #	Common Species	Scientific Name
26	Elderberry	<i>Sambucus</i>
27	Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier</i>
28	Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
29	Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
30	Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier</i>
31	Elderberry	<i>Sambucus</i>
32	Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>
33	Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>
34	Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>
35	Yellow Birch	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>
36	Eastern White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>
37	Black Oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>

Plant #	Common Species	Scientific Name
38	Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>
39	White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
40	Black Oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>
41	Honeysuckle	<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>
42	Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
43	Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
44	Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier</i>
45	Yellow Birch	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>
46	Elderberry	<i>Sambucus</i>
47	Elderberry	<i>Sambucus</i>
48	Yellow Birch	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>
49	Black Oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>

Plant #	Common Species	Scientific Name
50	Eastern White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>
51	Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>
52	Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
53	American Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>
54	Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>
55	Elderberry	<i>Sambucus</i>
56	Musclewood	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>
57	Arrowwood	<i>Arrowwood viburnum</i>
58	White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
59	Musclewood	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>
60	Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
61	White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>

Plant #	Common Species	Scientific Name
62	Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
63	Yellow Birch	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>
64	Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>
65	Arrowwood	<i>Arrowwood viburnum</i>
66	Yellow Birch	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>
67	Hazelnut	<i>Corylus americana</i>
68	American Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>
69	Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>
70	Eastern White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>
71	Black Oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>
72	White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
73	Black Oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>

Plant #	Common Species	Scientific Name
74	Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
75	Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
76	Black Oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>
77	Eastern White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>
78	Black Oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>
79	Musclewood	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>
80	Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>
81	Honeysuckle	<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>
82	Yellow Birch	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>
83	Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>
84	Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>
85	American Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>

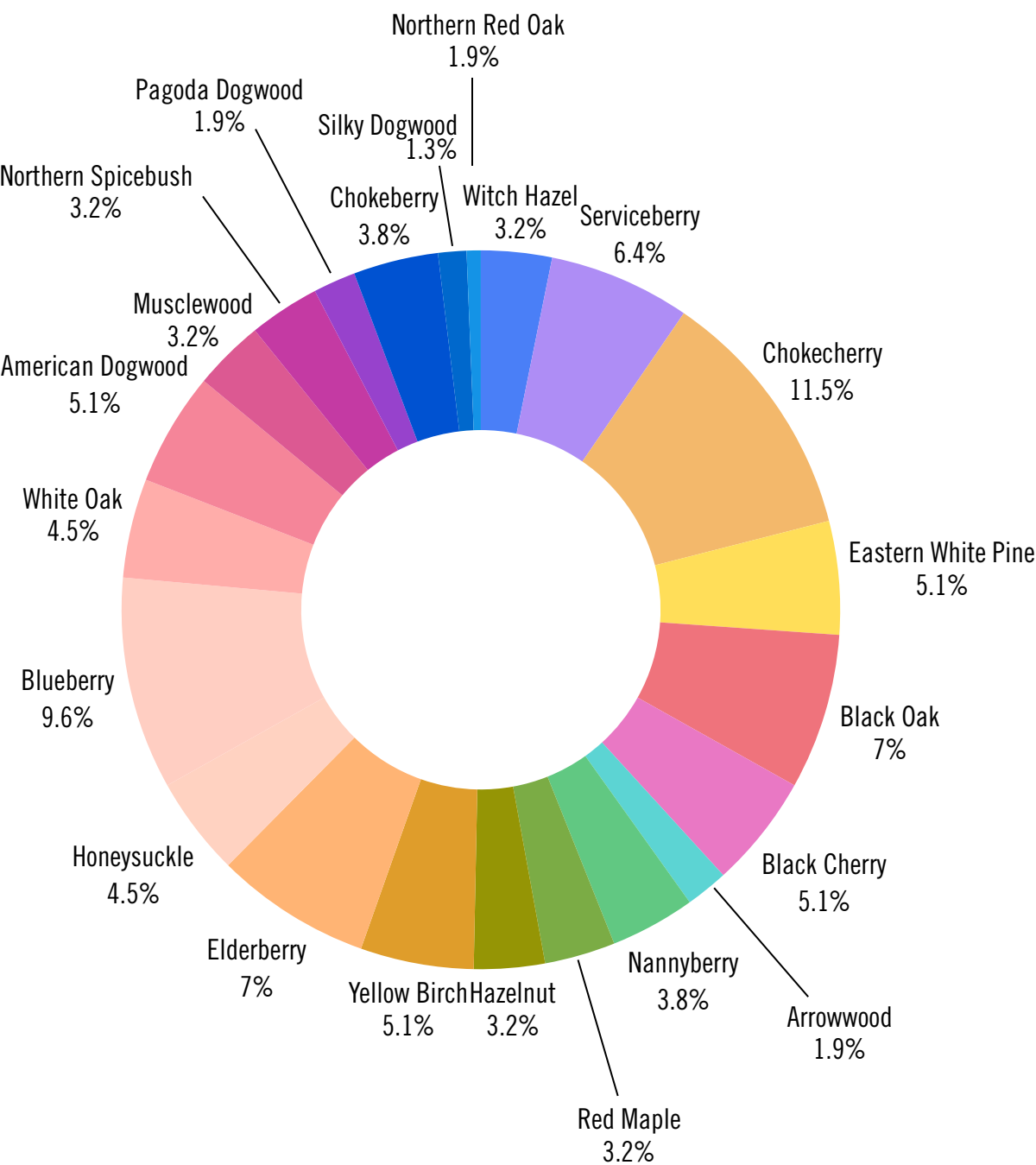
Plant #	Common Species	Scientific Name
110	American Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>
111	White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
112	Pagoda Dogwood	<i>Swida alternifolia</i>
113	Honeysuckle	<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>
114	Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
115	Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>
116	Chokeberry	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>
117	Chokeberry	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>
118	Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
119	Northern Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>
120	American Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>
121	Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>

Plant #	Common Species	Scientific Name
122	Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>
123	Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>
124	Silky Dogwood	<i>Swida amomum</i>
125	Silky Dogwood	<i>Swida amomum</i>
126	Black Oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>
127	Northern Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
128	Hazelnut	<i>Corylus americana</i>
129	Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier</i>
130	Chokeberry	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>
131	Nannyberry	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>
132	Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>
133	Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>

Plant #	Common Species	Scientific Name
134	American Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>
135	Silky Dogwood	<i>Swida amomum</i>
136	Elderberry	<i>Sambucus</i>
137	American Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>
138	Eastern White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>
139	Nannyberry	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>
140	Honeysuckle	<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>
141	Musclewood	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>
142	Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>
143	Northern Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>
144	Nannyberry	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>
145	Honeysuckle	<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>

Plant #	Common Species	Scientific Name
146	Hazelnut	<i>Corylus americana</i>
147	Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
148	Witch Hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>
149	Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
150	White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
151	Witch Hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>
152	White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
153	Nannyberry	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>
154	Witch Hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>
155	Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
156	Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier</i>
157	Elderberry	<i>Sambucus</i>

Miyawaki Forest Species Breakdown



End of Report

Babson Greenworks