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# Miyawaki method of greening losing favour in Chennai

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Simply put, T.D. Babu of Nizhal, an environmental non-profit, says a Miyawaki forest is actually tree abuse. “The execution is incorrect. Trees such as Vaagai [*Albizia lebbek*] whose crowns can grow up to 40 metres are packed together in pigeon holes. The trees might grow faster, but they aren’t normal as they don’t support associated fauna,” he explains.

The method has raised questions about the trees' ecological efficiency as it brings down their sequestering capacity to insignificant levels because of the reduced surface area. Instead, 'micro forests', wherein native trees are planted not too close and are allowed to grow wider along with other creepers, are being recommended.

According to official data, 38 Miyawaki forests have been set up by the Corporation. R. Vijayalakshmi, Superintending Engineer, Greater Chennai Corporation, says there are no plans to set up new Miyawaki forests as of now. Despite the hum around the inadequacies of the Miyawaki method, it has not yet been completely avoided. The Water Resources Department recently announced a Miyawaki forest around the Red Hills reservoir where 55 native species are said to have been planted.