Supplementary materials

Table S1. Soil chemical attributes of each plot in the study site, Araras-SP, Southeastern Brazil. K: potassium. Ca: calcium. Mg: magnesium. H+Al: hydrogen plus aluminum. Sum of bases: sum of K, Ca, and Mg. CEC: cation exchange capacity, it is the sum of bases plus H+Al. Bases saturation: the percentage of bases K, Ca, and Mg in the CEC. Samples for soil analysis were collected from 0-20 cm deep. For each plot, we collected a compound sample with 10 subsamples.

Plot	Phosphorus (resin)	Organic matter	pH (CaCl)	K	Ca	Mg	H+Al	Sum of bases	CEC	Bases saturation
	$Mg.dm^{-3}$	$g.dm^{-3}$		mol.dm^{-3}						%
1	59	26	6.9	3.6	55	36	15	94.6	109.6	86
2	55	30	7.1	3.6	62	42	11	107.6	118.6	91
3	46	25	7.1	3.5	44	34	13	81.5	94.5	86
4	46	28	7.2	2.8	59	40	9	101.8	110.8	92
5	34	25	7.1	3.6	38	32	11	73.6	84.6	87
6	23	24	6.9	3.8	39	30	13	72.8	85.8	85
7	23	31	6.8	3.0	33	22	15	58.0	73.0	79
8	56	33	6.8	4.3	49	31	13	84.3	97.3	87
9	17	27	6.8	3.3	35	24	16	62.3	78.3	80
10	20	32	6.6	5.0	36	27	16	68.0	84.0	81
11	15	30	6.5	4.3	28	20	18	52.3	70.3	74
12	11	30	6.3	3.3	28	24	20	55.3	75.3	73
13	19	32	6.3	2.7	29	23	19	54.7	73.7	74
14	14	35	6.3	3.1	36	30	19	69.1	88.1	78
15	15	30	6.3	3.7	35	27	18	65.7	83.7	78
16	13	40	6.2	2.9	36	28	18	66.9	84.9	79
17	12	27	6.1	2.5	32	24	18	58.5	76.5	76
18	13	24	6.0	2.9	34	24	19	60.9	79.9	76
19	11	24	6.0	3.0	26	21	18	50.0	68.0	74
20	19	20	6.4	2.6	43	40	11	85.6	96.6	89

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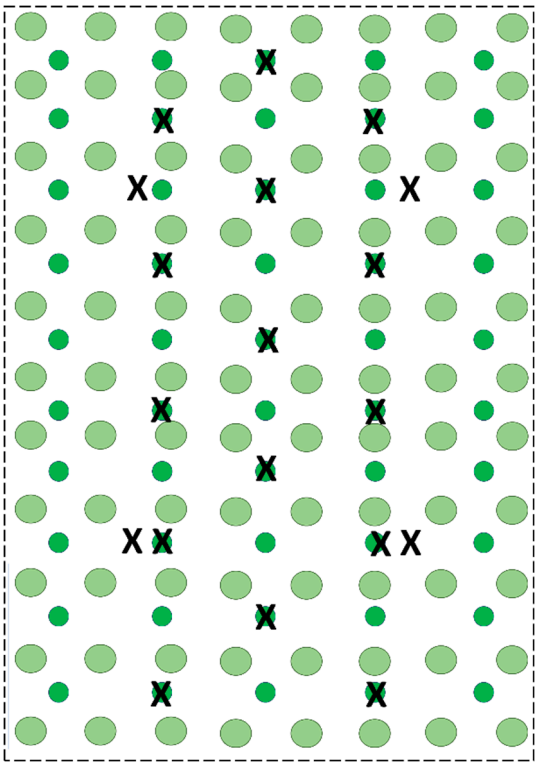

Figure S1. Scheme of the distribution of fast-growing and timber trees in an example plot of 20 × 30 m, in the study site (A) and the distribution of the 20 plots in the study site (B). In A, lighter and darker green circles represent the canopy of fast-growing (3 × 3 m spacing) and timber trees (3 × 4 m), respectively, while 'X's are the places where light and canopy openness measures were taken. In B, plots without numbers are the control plots (no thinning) while the .3 and .6 and 1 represent the treatments of 30%, 60% and 100% of fast-growing trees basal area thinning in the plot.

Figure S2. The forest restoration site in different moments: its edge in December 2017, prior to fast-growing trees thinning and when the plantation was 4 years old (A); chemical thinning with glyphosate in March 2018 (B); about 45 days after thinning, in May 2018, in a 100% plot, note that most of the trees are defoliated and some trunks have fallen (C); and resprouting of a *Guazuma ulmifolia* tree, about 45 days after thinning.

Figure S3. Light measurements in the forest restoration understory, with the ceptometer in July 2018, three months after thinning (note that the timber species under the ceptometer is in the interrow of the fast-growing trees, A); and one take of hemispherical photography - with a fisheye clip attached to a smartphone - for canopy opening measurement, also three months after thinning (B). Measurements with ceptometer and fisheye clip were taken in the same places and periods of time: 1 month before, 3 months and one year after thinning of fast-growing trees.