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## Can Mathematics Help Restore Forests?

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## Can Mathematics Help Restore Forests?

When thinking about mathematics, complicated equations, formulas, and graphs frequently come to mind. What some may find surprising is just how broad the reach of math really is. By harnessing the power of mathematical and computational tools, we can tackle problems in seemingly disparate fields such as ecology. This allows researchers to take an integrative approach to problem solving, where ecologists and mathematicians can collaborate. For example, invasive weed species can lead to depletion of natural forests, which can trigger a cascading effect that also impacts the local wildlife that depend on the forests for survival. Various methods, like herbicide application, have been suggested and applied as possible control measures against forest depletion. By applying mathematical theory and using computers to perform simulations, we can make predictions on which control measures might be most effective in the long run without having to wait. After all, time is of the essence!

