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Shifts in leaf area, density and chemistry of tree seedlings in response to experimental climate change treatments

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ABSTRACT

In New England climate change is predicted to bring about large shifts in future forest regeneration patterns, which will have consequences for both the health and functioning of our natural ecosystems and profits for forestry-related industries. I will experimentally measure the impact of warming and altered precipitation on the leaf characteristics of six dominant tree species. I collected initial field data at the Boston Area Climate Experiment (BACE) in the summer of 2011, but samples must now be processed in the lab and analyzed. This work will provide important insights into the feedback processes between plants, soil and climate change.