

FCS Technical Guidance

Suitable seed sources for planting native trees and shrubs

Seed sources used for planting native trees and shrubs under Rural Priorities options, including *Woodland Creation*, and *Woodland Improvement Grant – Restructuring regeneration*, should meet the policy and guidance published by FCS in 2006: ***Seed sources for Planting Native Trees and Shrubs in Scotland*** – see <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-6uue3l>

The aim of this policy is to promote the availability and use of planting stock that will:

- *be both fit for purpose and ecologically adapted*to the planting site;*
- *maintain or enhance both genetic adaptation/fitness of our tree and shrub populations, and their capacity to adapt to changing environmental conditions;*
- *sustain sufficient genetic variation to provide for future uses of trees for all purposes;*
- *help to maintain and restore natural genetic processes in tree populations, especially gene flow and natural selection;*
- *help conserve patterns of the genetic structure of tree populations that reflect their evolutionary history.*

*Ecologically adapted means well adapted to the site type and prevailing environmental conditions, including pests and diseases; and capable of establishing a population and growing and reproducing successfully.

It is important to select seed sources that are well suited to the environment of the planting site. There have been examples of poorly adapted provenances being planted in the past leading to poor establishment and survival and susceptibility to disease.

The guidance in ***Seed sources for Planting Native Trees and Shrubs in Scotland*** includes:

- lists of tree and shrub species native to Scotland in 13 seed zones.
- preferred sources (origins and provenances) for planting native trees and shrubs for 3 main purposes. These are:
 - Planting in and adjacent to semi-natural woods;
 - Planting elsewhere for biodiversity or multiple benefits
 - Planting elsewhere but mainly for timber production.

For each of these scenarios the guidance lists alternative types of seed source that may also be acceptable in certain circumstances provided that FCS are satisfied these sources are well enough adapted to be fit for purpose.

FCS will use this guidance flexibly taking account of the current supply of local sources from the seed zones.

Native Scots pine planting

The seed zones for native (Caledonian) Scots pine are more finely grained than seed zones for other native species as they are based on earlier research and grant schemes dating from the 1980s. This has been a very

successful approach over the years. However at present the supply of Caledonian Scots pine plants is temporarily reduced in relation to likely demand. We will therefore accept a **temporary** change for **12 months** to the indigenous Scots pine seed zones rules for planting of native Scots pine that is located outside the core and regeneration zones of native pinewoods on the Caledonian Pinewoods Inventory (CPI):

- Seed from North (1), and North Central (2) may be interchanged;
- Seed from Northeast (3), East Central (4) and South Central (5) may be interchanged;
- Seed from Southwest (6) and Northwest (7) exclusion zones should continue to be kept separate from other zones however due to their distinct history as populations. Use sources from the same zone for any planting of native Scots pine in these 2 cases.

Any planting of Scots pine taking place within the *core and regeneration* zones of the CPI should continue to use sources from the same native pine seed zone.

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