



# PLANT QUALITY TESTING SERVICE

## THE SERVICE

- uses morphological standards for forest trees specified by the British Standard for Nursery stock (BS 3936 Part 4) and physiological indices developed by the Forestry Commission's Forest Research Agency.
- is for foresters and nurserymen who wish to obtain information about the quality of their planting stock **before** planting.
- will indicate the likely out-planting performance of trees.
- can provide feedback within two working days of receipt of plant samples.
- will provide a printed, faxed or e-mailed report including a data summary and conclusions.

## SAMPLING PROCEDURE

The sample must be representative of the batch of plants concerned. It should contain a minimum of 10 plants, depending upon the range of tests required (see below). Individual samples should be sealed in a polythene bag from which most of the air has been expelled. Bags should be clearly labelled and carefully packed into a sturdy box. A **Background Information Sheet** (form PQT1) must accompany each sample and be completed as fully as possible to assist in the appropriate interpretation of results. The package should be sent to the address below by first class mail or next-day courier. **Please phone or e-mail to let us know that plant samples are being dispatched.**

## CHARGES

The cost of the service depends upon which test is carried out. Charges will be invoiced along with the delivery of the summary report on test results.

### Standard charges for 2012/13:

TEST			
No.	Type	Trees per sample	Cost per sample (£)
1	Root electrolyte leakage (REL)	10	45
2	Shoot electrolyte leakage (SEL), conifers only	10	45
3	REL, Height, Diameter, Usability	10	70
4	Full test - as (3) plus: Root/Shoot ratio and Root Moisture Content.	25	100
5	Root Growth Potential (RGP)	15	150

## FURTHER INFORMATION

See the Forest Research, Plant Quality Testing web page: <http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-5UWFN9>

Or contact: Plant Quality Testing Service  
Forest Research  
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