



4 October 2007

Nursery Survey 2007

Data for the planting year October 2005 to September 2006.

This release gives estimates of sales of improved nursery stock by nurseries in Great Britain. The figures cover sales of Sitka spruce and Scots pine to Scotland. Total sales of these species are also reported.

The main results from the survey are that, of sales of Sitka spruce and Scots pine by nurseries in Great Britain:

- 82% of sales to Scotland were derived from improved basic material.
- 78% of all sales were derived from improved basic material.

Table 1: Sales of nursery stock ¹, 2005-06

	Sitka spruce			Scots pine	Total
	Seedlings	VP ²	Total		
million plants					
Sales to Scotland					
Total stock	20.8	3.5	24.3	3.2	27.5
Improved stock	16.9	3.5	20.3	2.2	22.5
% improved	81%	100%	84%	68%	82%
Total sales (all GB)					
Total stock	26.4	5.7	32.2	4.4	36.5
Improved stock	20.0	5.7	25.7	2.9	28.6
% improved	76%	100%	80%	67%	78%

Notes:

1. Results for respondents only. This is estimated to account for around 95% of all sales of Sitka spruce and Scots pine to Scotland.
2. VP = vegetative propagation.

BACKGROUND

The figures in this release have been obtained from a voluntary survey of nurseries in Great Britain, run on behalf of Forestry Commission Scotland.

The survey was set up to monitor the level of use of improved nursery stock in Scotland, as part of the system for reporting progress over the intended 10 year life of the current Scottish Forestry Strategy 2006 (SFS). It is intended that this will be an annual survey.

Questionnaires were issued to a total of 31 nurseries (including the 3 Forestry Commission nurseries). A total of 25 responses (including nil responses) were received, giving a response rate of 81%.

The assistance of the Confederation of Forest Industries (ConFor) and the nursery trade in the running of this survey and the provision of data are gratefully acknowledged.

Definition of Improved Stock

Species	Definition
Sitka spruce: Seedlings	Seed orchard material that falls in the <i>tested</i> category under the UK Forest Reproductive Material Regulations. This material will have superior performance for growth rate and stem form relative to untested material.
Sitka spruce: VP	Vegetatively propagated <i>tested</i> 'family mixture' material (either half or full sib families). This material is derived from controlled cross-pollination and then multiplied using vegetative propagation. This stock has significant genetic gains for both quality and quantity traits.
Scots pine	Seed orchard material that falls in the <i>tested</i> category under the EU Forest Reproductive Material Regulations. This material will have superior performance for growth rate and stem form relative to untested material.

'Tested' means material derived from the selection of individual trees or stands that have undergone evaluation for genetic quality and have been shown to be superior, in comparison to accepted standards.

Figures in the table are individually rounded, so the constituent items may not sum to the totals given.

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