

PLANTING STOCK AVAILABILITY LIST SPRING 2017

| Species | Provenance | Age & Country of production | cm | Pence ea per 100 | Pence ea per 1000 | |
|--|---|---|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Abies balsamea</i> Phanerolepis Canaan Fir | West Virginia USA | 2+2 | 30-50 | 66 | 44 | |
| <i>Abies concolor</i> Colorado White Fir | Colorado USA | 2+1 D | 15-25 | 75 | - | |
| <i>Abies fraseri</i> Fraser Fir | Ayers' seed orchard USA Roane Mountain USA Potting Grade | 2+1 DK | 12-25 | 60 | 42 * | |
| | | 2+2 | 20-40 | 56 | 38 * | |
| <i>Abies koreana</i> Korean Fir | Truust seed orchard L.126 DK Potting Grade | 2+2 DK | 20-40 | 78 | 52 | |
| <i>Abies lasiocarpa</i> Arizona Arizona Corkbark Fir | Apache National Forest Arizona USA | 2+2 D | 20-40 | 84 | 55 | |
| <i>Abies nordmanniana</i> Nordmann Fir Borshomi—Tversted gene Pool | Georgia Ambrolauri FD Tlugi #30 Georgia Ambrolauri FD Tlugi #12 DK seed orchard Silkeborg Nordskov FP.259 | 2+1 | 15-30 | 54 | 36 * | |
| | | 2+1 DK | 12-25 | 62 | 42 * ^{Boxed} | |
| | | 2+1 DK | 12-25 | 62 | 42 * | |
| | Borshomi—Tversted gene Pool | Russia Apsheronsk FD Mesmay DK seed orchard Silkeborg Nordskov FP.259 Georgia Ambrolauri FD Tlugi #A10 DK seed orchard Bredal Skov FP.1100 | 3-0 DK | 15-30 | 70 | 46 ^{Boxed} |
| | | | 3-0 DK | 15-30 | - | 46 * ^{Boxed} |
| | | | 3-0 DK | 15-30 | - | 48 * ^{Boxed} |
| Borshomi—Tversted gene Pool | 3-0 DK | 15-30 | - | 48 * ^{Boxed} | | |
| Borshomi—Tversted gene Pool | Georgia Ambrolauri FD Tlugi DK seed orchard Silkeborg Nordskov FP.259 Potting Grade | 2+2 2+2 DK | 20-40 15-30 | 66 75 | 44 * 50 | |
| <i>Abies procera</i> Noble Fir | Welsh Blue | 2+1 Fr | 15-25 | 66 | 44 | |
| <i>Picea abies</i> Norway Spruce | France Jura & Savoie PAB 504 Germany Swabian Alb 840.26 | 2+1 | 20-30 | 38 | 26 * | |
| | | 2+1 | 20-40 | 52 | 28 | |
| | Germany Neckarland 840.17 France Jura & Savoie PAB 504 Potting Grade | 2+2 | 20-40 | 42 | 34 * | |
| | | 2+2 Fr | 25-40 | 72 | 48 | |
| Germany Neckarland 840.17 | 2+2 | 30-50 | 60 | 40 | | |
| <i>Picea omorika</i> Serbian Spruce | Germany Potting Grade | 2+1 Fr | 15-30 | 60 | 40 | |
| | DK seed orchard Djursland F.500 Potting Grade | 2+2 DK | 30-50 | 90 | 60 | |
| <i>Picea pungens</i> Glauca Colorado Blue Spruce | Kaibab National Forest Arizona | 2+1 Fr | 15-25 | 56 | 38 | |
| | Majestic Blue Potting Grade | 2+1 DK | 15-30 | 84 | 56 | |
| | Canadian seed orchard 'Baby Blue' | Jumbo Plug | 12-25 | £1.95 | £1.38 | |
| <i>Pinus contorta</i> Lodgepole Pine | Alaskan | 2+1+1 | 20-30 | 54 | 36 | |

* Denotes a key stock line available with a 5% discount for orders over 10,000

We are pleased to offer our Spring 2017 stock subject to being unsold and to our usual terms and conditions of sale. Most crops are grown specifically for Christmas tree production and are rigorously selected from the best available crops on British and European nurseries. Prices, which exclude VAT, are based on collection in co-extruded black / white bags, continental multi-ply paper sacks, or boxes from our premises at Castle Bytham, just ten miles North of Stamford and only three miles from the A1. Nationwide delivery is available by carrier, Palletline or road haulier at cost.

Plant age explained: The numbers used to designate plant age refer to the number of years the plant has spent in the nursery. The first figure is the years spent as a seedling, + denotes transplanting and the second figure the years spent as a transplant spaced evenly in rows.

A 2+1 is a three year old plant which spent two growing seasons as a seedling and one as a transplant. A 3-0 is a three year old plant which has been grown in a seedling bed without transplanting, but mechanically undercut in situ to produce a more fibrous root system, sometimes described as a 1u1u1. A 1u1 therefore is a two year plant undercut at least once.

Nordmann Fir undercuts are particularly suitable for machine planting. Ask us for more information on the Nordmann stock best suited for your conditions and the benefits of choosing seed orchard or native origin plants. Seed orchard trial reports are available on request.

2+2 and larger plants: Over recent planting seasons we have received reports of higher than expected plant deaths when out-planting 2+2 stock, even from experienced growers. Other growers planting the same stock at or about the same time have had minimal losses. Please take particular care when planting these larger plants. Minimise exposure of roots to drying winds by planting immediately from the bag. Ensure the soil is well heeled in and the plant held firmly in the ground, sufficient to resist quite a strong tug. Consider using a motorised auger if inter-planting within an existing crop, or if soil conditions are not ideal.

Nursery stock supply this year is generally good, although recent poor seed yields from Danish Nordmann seed orchards mean supplies of three year seed orchard plants are limited. We do have reasonable quantities of 'A10' and Bredal Skov origin Nordmann, always in strong demand, although we understand these are sold out elsewhere. All species of our fir plants are very healthy and perhaps some of the best we have ever seen. We did however have to work particularly hard to find the good quality spruce we have on offer. The weaker Pound post-Brexit has resulted in higher prices for imported plants, but we have mostly managed to contain increases to between five and ten percent.

In common with other suppliers and perhaps as a result of previous over-planting, our Spring 2016 sales were fifteen percent down when compared with Spring 2015, although we expect to sell similar numbers in 2017. Our confidence is mainly due to the very positive reports we are getting from Christmas 2016 sales. Retail growers report increased sales of up to twenty percent, with choose and cut trees particularly in demand. Reduced value of the Pound post-Brexit and increased shipping costs added potentially £4-6 per tree to Danish prices. This coupled with some poor Continental grading and marking drove demand up for UK produced trees. Larger wholesale growers and wholesalers had particularly strong sales of premium and field-run grades, but third class types were very difficult to sell even when heavily discounted.

Overall, the mood in the industry is very positive with some larger growers considering increasing their planting again.

A reminder to customers receiving deliveries from us.

Trees in bags delivered by courier should be stored upright in a cool, dark store.

Trees delivered in pallet crates should be unpacked immediately upon delivery and the individual bags stored standing upright in a cool, dark store.

Do not untie the tops of bags for storage and on no account pour water into the bags. Do not soak trees in water before planting as this washes away the protective soil on the roots and exposes microscopic root hairs to possible damage. Danish Nordmann plants in boxes should be stored no more than three high and with good air circulation. Boxes should remain sealed until ready for use. Trees should store safely in this condition for one to four weeks depending upon delivery date and temperature.

We thank you for your business in the past and look forward to hearing from you soon



Adrian & Cheryl Morgan
Plantation Lodge Farm Castle Bytham Grantham Lincolnshire NG33 4SP
T: 01780 410 101 F: 01780 411 092 E: snowbird@btconnect.com
W: www.snowbirdchristmastrees.co.uk

Canaan Fir: A close cousin to Fraser and Balsam firs, unique in that it tolerates wetter soil conditions than Fraser or Balsam. It is similar in appearance to both, but has slightly less orderly branching patterns. We are one of a very small number of European nursery producers of Canaan and don't have another bulk crop production due until Spring 2019.

Colorado White Fir: Potentially a spectacular tree, but not easy to shear and achieve consistent results. We persevere with it in our Choose & Cut field as it has such a striking blue colour. Plant in small groups for best effect.

Fraser Fir: Perhaps now the third most popular UK species behind Nordmann Fir & Norway Spruce. Sought after because it offers a more slender alternative to Nordmann with good needle-retention. Will only grow on very free-draining and sandy sites as it is particularly susceptible to Phytophthora root rot. Requires regular scheduled spraying to control Balsam Woolly Aphid. We are particularly pleased with the quality of the two lots we have available this year as they are lovely, balanced, well shaped plants without excessive extension growth.

Korean Fir: Gaining popularity as an alternative to Nordmann Fir, but only really suitable for the more fertile well-drained sites. It can tolerate poorer conditions, but then tends to grow very slowly and produce copious cones which although very pretty in the field, fall apart at harvest leaving unsightly stubs. Our Danish grown plants are very strong and much larger than usual for a 2+2 at 20-40cm.

Arizona Corkbark Fir: A beautiful blue slow-growing fir that is very early flushing and can be susceptible to frost damage in early years. Makes a spectacular tree in the right conditions, generally on fertile slopes with good air and water drainage. The plants we have this year are unusually strong and again larger than usual for a 2+2 at 20-40 cm.

Nordmann Fir: Now firmly established as the most popular Christmas tree in the UK, with 80% plus market share. Tolerant of a wide range of soil conditions, but avoid poorly drained sites. It always establishes faster when planted in fertilised and cultivated sites. If unable to cultivate, consider planting with an auger to improve soil structure. In common with other firs, our Nordmann plants this year have grown exceptionally well. For the first time ever, a number of our three year plants including our own UK grown contract crop are graded at 15-30 rather than the more usual 12-25 or 10-20 cm. We have a number of different lots available with both seed orchard and wild seed collected origins. As a general guide, smaller retail growers are advised to plant Georgian Ambrolauri wild collections, either 2+1, 3/0 or 2+2. On good soils where uniformity and early vigour are important, we recommend 3/0 Ambrolauri 'A10'. Larger wholesale growers are encouraged to plant two or three different origins or provenances in order to establish the best type for their particular ground conditions.

Noble Fir: Not as widely planted in recent years as it will only thrive on sandy soils in areas of higher than average rainfall. In these areas, Fraser Fir is now more commonly grown. Noble Fir is perhaps the finest Christmas tree you can have in the home, but is frustrating to grow in the field as often fewer than fifty percent make good trees even on good Noble sites. Perhaps worth persevering with if you can make wreaths out of the poorer trees! Often overlooked as a tree for growing in pots, which is unfortunate as it is arguably an easier species to grow than Nordmann and Fraser in above-ground pot production.

Norway Spruce: Once the 'standard' UK Christmas tree, a place now taken by Nordmann which is significantly more resilient in the wholesale supply chain. In common with many other retail growers, 40% of our sales are still in Norway Spruce, but this can vary from site to site. We recommend that retail growers still plant at least 20% Norway as needle retention on freshly harvested trees displayed in water-holding stands is very good. Unlike firs, nursery conditions in recent years across Europe have not favoured spruce. Our usual favourite 2+1 French Jura crop is graded at 20-30 cm, which is ideal for machine planting. Smaller growers may prefer our 2+2 20-40 German origin UK grown plants, they are strong and well balanced without too long a leader. Our potting grade Jura stock are as good as ever and should be first choice for pot production.

Serbian Spruce: Usually planted sparingly by retail growers to add interest and choice. Widely planted and popular in pots. We offer two types, a German seed collection with characteristic slender growth habit and early cone production, (spruce cones remain intact after harvest for a distinctive effect). Our Danish 2+2 seed orchard stock has a more compact growth habit, responds well to shearing and is shaped more like Norway Spruce. Both have striking silver colour to the undersides of the needles.

Colorado Blue Spruce: A popular tree for retail growers, but not now widely grown for wholesale sale. Very susceptible to Green Spruce Aphid. We offer three lots. Kaibab is a popular commercial stock with a number of very blue trees in the mix, but also quite a few greens. Majestic is comparable to our regular Misty blue; a more consistent grey blue colour with fewer bright blue 'shiners', but also very few 'greens'. For a consistent bright blue colour, choose the Canadian seed orchard stock, 'Baby Blue', but be sure to fence rabbits out, for some reason they love them!

Lodgepole Pine: Good on wetter peaty or mineral soils, does not do well on clay. Nice sturdy twice-transplanted plants.

A selection from our extensive range of growers supplies



Bird Perches This new German designed perch has quickly become one of our best-selling items. It is a one-piece moulding, quick and easy to apply and really secure. Apply in April to the tallest trees, approximately every tenth tree in every fourth row to protect new leader shoots from bird damage. Remove after mid July to avoid UV degradation.

For even greater protection against bird damage, we highly recommend erecting taller, (3-4 m) semi permanent raptor perches with 'T' bar tops, a minimum of four per acre.

£98 per box of five hundred - less than 20p each
25p each in quantities less than five hundred



Branch Adjusters Interlocking branch adjusters for repairing damaged trees and broken branches. New versatile design giving many options for securing to the tree. Fast to use and can be re-positioned many times in the growing season.

£48 per box of one hundred
60p each in quantities less than one hundred



Top-Stop Nipper

Chemical free - proven results. Leader control for Nordmann and Noble Fir. Use from year five onwards.

As the UK Distributor, we have extensive experience in using the Top-Stop Nipper. The tool comes with a detailed instruction and trials results booklet, but we are always available to answer any questions you may have on its use.

£355 per set. Order now for April delivery (Price of Top-Stop Nippers includes delivery)



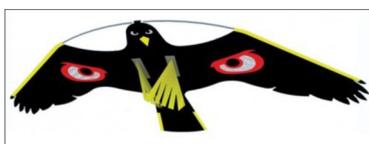
HD Professional re-chargeable **Li-ion electric secateurs**. Robust well-made pruners with two different jaw settings. Wide open for basal pruning, half open for side trimming smaller branches and faster cutting times. German steel blades. Powerful 36v 4.4 Ah battery, 2-3 hours charge time, 8 hrs+ work time.

£450 per set. Complete with backpack harness for battery and holster. Well proven product with very positive customer feed-back



Easy-carry transport bag for bird perches, branch adjusters, canes and Top-Stop Nippers. Incredibly versatile bag with many different uses in the plantation. Made from heavy-duty Cordura nylon.

£27.50 each



Hawk Kite bird scarer kit. Comes complete with 7m telescopic glass-fibre pole, tether and ground spike.

£50.00 each

These products are a small selection of our grower's requisites. Visit our website or ask us for more information on fertilisers, planting spades, planting bags, shearing knives, Felco secateurs, shears, topiary ladders, long-reach pruners, safety clothing, tapetools & tape, labels & staple guns, label aprons, banners & signs, Easirroot pots & Shropshire Sheep.

Prices shown are exclusive of VAT and delivery