

# Nursery Survey 2008

4 September 2008

This release gives estimates of sales of improved nursery stock by nurseries in Great Britain for the planting year October 2006 to September 2007. 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:

- 84% of sales to Scotland in 2006-07 were derived from improved basic material, a slight increase from 2005-06.
- 82% of all sales in 2006-07 were derived from improved basic material, a slight increase from 2005-06.

**Table 1: Sales of nursery stock<sup>1</sup> to Scotland, 2005-06 and 2006-07**

	Sitka spruce			Scots Pine	Total
	Seedlings	VP <sup>2</sup>	Total		
Total stock					million plants
2005-06	21.1	3.5	24.5	2.9	27.4
2006-07	18.4	3.7	22.1	4.2	26.3
Improved stock					
2005-06	17.2	3.5	20.6	1.7	22.3
2006-07	15.7	3.7	19.4	2.6	22.0
% Improved					
2005-06	81%	100%	84%	57%	81%
2006-07	85%	100%	88%	62%	84%

Note:

(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.

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Table 2: Total sales (all GB) of nursery stock<sup>1</sup>, 2005-06 and 2006-07

	Sitka spruce			million plants	
	Seedlings	VP <sup>2</sup>	Total	Scots Pine	Total
Total stock					
2005-06	26.9	5.7	32.6	4.0	36.7
2006-07	25.7	6.3	32.0	5.9	37.9
Improved stock					
2005-06	20.4	5.7	26.2	2.4	28.5
2006-07	20.7	6.3	27.0	3.9	30.9
% Improved					
2005-06	76%	100%	80%	58%	78%
2006-07	80%	100%	84%	66%	82%

Note:

(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.

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## Background

The figures in this release have been obtained from a voluntary survey of nursery businesses 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.

For the 2006-07 survey, questionnaires were issued to a total of 28 nurseries (including the 3 Forestry Commission nurseries). A total of 24 responses (including nil responses) were received, giving a response rate of 86%.

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 tested 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 tested '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 tested 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.