

XMASFIR

Trial of Danish noble fir Christmas tree sources

PROJECT TEAM

Dr David Thompson, Coillte*
Donal O'Hare

* Address correspondence to:
david.thompson@coillte.ie

COMPLETION DATE

March 2008

OBJECTIVES

The objective of this project is to establish a series of field trials of Danish seed sources of noble fir in commercial Christmas tree farms around the country. Sources will be planted in replicated field experiments.

PROGRESS

Seed was obtained from eleven different sources, including eight Danish noble fir sources, known

to produce high quality trees that have not been previously tested here, together with one previously untested Irish source and two sources used in an earlier trial, to allow a comparison between the two series of trials.

Plants were grown for one year in pots, which were subsequently lined-out in a nursery bed for the second growing season. In the spring of 2007 plants were lifted and used to establish five trials (including one in Northern Ireland).

ACTIVITIES PLANNED

In spring 2008 survival and growth will be assessed in all trials after the first growing season in the field. Dead plants will be replaced. A report will be prepared on the establishment of the trials which will complete the project. A new proposal will be prepared to cover assessment after three years and prior to harvest.



One-year-old noble fir Christmas tree trial.