

INFO BULLETIN - WHY PLANT CUTTINGS?

Seed of the very best genetic selections is available in very limited quantities and is extremely expensive.

Producing several cuttings from one seed retains all the vigour and genetic gain characteristics from the original seed, plus a number of additional physical attributes are picked up as the stock plant (from which cuttings are taken) ages.

As a stock plant ages from 1-4 years the cuttings taken grows more like the top of an older tree, taller, thinner with reduced foliage area, shorter needles and sealed buds i.e. an increasing improvement in form compared with the same stock raised directly from seed.

1. Reduced "sail" area means improved stability in wind and snow - ideal in Canterbury.
2. Sealed buds and short hard needles increase in resistance to frost, rabbit browse and reduce transplant stress - proven in trials at Balmoral Forest.
3. Aged (3-4 year old) cuttings will reduce speed wobbles and toppling on high fertile ex pasture sites.
4. An increase in form means less treestocks need to be established per hectare (850-1000 cuttings per/ha compared to 1000-1250 seedlings per/ha).



seedling



aged cutting

Five years from planting

N.B. Management plans may vary widely depending on site, location, climate and intended use. Please ask nursery staff for assistance if you are unsure.