

## Book Reviews

### CHOICE OF SEED ORIGINS FOR THE MAIN FOREST SPECIES IN BRITAIN

R. Lines, Forestry Commission Bulletin 66, 61 pages. 18 figures and 13 colour plates. £5.20 sterling. HMSO Publications Centre, P.O. Box 276, London, SW8 5DT. ISBN 0117102040.

This publication condenses the work of provenance research carried out in Britain over the past 60 years. The author, Roger Lines, has been associated with much of this work during his career and has become recognised as an international authority.

This Bulletin is essential reading for nursery and forest managers since the careful selection of genetic material is necessary for the successful establishment and growth of plantations. Once established there is little or no opportunity to change seed origin in mid-rotation without incurring a substantial loss in income. The Bulletin has also much to offer the specialist researcher with an extensive bibliography of 200 references for more detailed reading.

Twelve commonly planted conifer and four hardwood species are discussed in standard format under the headings of natural range, silvicultural characteristics, introduction and use, seed origin experiments and recommendations. Maps showing the natural range of the species are also included.

Recommendations are given not only for the best seed sources but lesser alternatives are listed, an important consideration given the unpredictability of seed supply. Provenances to avoid are also mentioned.

While recommendations given in the Bulletin are for Britain they are to some extent applicable to Ireland for certain species. However care must be taken when extrapolating provenance recommendations to another untested environment since genotype by site interactions can often occur leading to unexpected results. But as a general guide to the subject area this work is invaluable to practicing foresters in this part of the world.

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