



Forestry England

### Fraser fir



In the USA, the Fraser fir is a popular Christmas tree, and is often the choice of the President to have in the White House! It has soft needles, an iconic shape and Christmassy smell. Because of this, it's starting to become a popular choice in the UK too.

### Wollemi pine

In other parts of the world, different trees are decorated at Christmas. Despite being threatened in the wild, garden centres in Australia grow potted Wollemi pines. They can be taken indoors and decorated year after year. Could this be a tree for the future in the UK?



*The pinetum is full of amazing trees. Can you spot any others that would work well as a Christmas tree?*

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## Learning at Bedgebury

### Discover our Christmas Trees!



A decorated tree is a real symbol of Christmas, and these days Christmas trees come in all shapes, sizes and colours.

But how did this tradition evolve from something reserved for royalty into the huge spectacle we see today?

Explore the trees of the pinetum to find out more!

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### Scots pine

These trees are too big to be Christmas trees, but young Scots pines are still sometimes used. Scots pines have been used in celebrations to mark the winter solstice for centuries. Way before Christianity, Druids would decorate pine glades and light fires to celebrate.



### Common yew

In Germany, 250 years ago, decorated yew branches were part of Christmas celebrations. Queen Charlotte brought the tradition to England in 1800 when she decorated a yew tree at Windsor Castle. But the yew tree is poisonous, so it's not often used today.



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### Norway spruce

The Norway spruce is a classic Christmas tree. Prince Albert introduced them to the UK as a Christmas tree in 1840. As well as decorating one at Windsor Castle, he passed them on to decorate schools and army barracks. The custom caught on and Christmas trees became a must-have for everyone.



### Nordmann fir (Caucasian fir)

The Nordmann fir has become the most popular UK Christmas tree in recent years because of its soft, 'non-drop' foliage. Warmer homes, and a longer Christmas season means that spruce trees start to lose their needles when kept inside, so the Nordmann fir is a great alternative.



*Conifer cones make great natural decorations. Keep an eye out for them on the ground as you explore the pinetum!*

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## Tree Trumps

Use the templates to create 'tree trumps' cards for the Christmas trees that you find by giving them a score out of 5 for each characteristic. Six of the trees are described on the activity sheet. You could choose your own trees to complete the last 2 cards.

Norway spruce



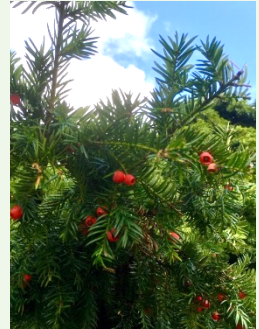
Shape  
Colour  
Scent  
Easy to decorate  
Availability

Scots pine



Shape  
Colour  
Scent  
Easy to decorate  
Availability

Common yew



Shape  
Colour  
Scent  
Easy to decorate  
Availability

Nordmann fir  
(Caucasian fir)



Shape  
Colour  
Scent  
Easy to decorate  
Availability

Fraser fir



Shape  
Colour  
Scent  
Easy to decorate  
Availability

Wollemi pine



Shape  
Colour  
Scent  
Easy to decorate  
Availability

Shape  
Colour  
Scent  
Easy to decorate  
Availability

Shape  
Colour  
Scent  
Easy to decorate  
Availability

Once you have filled in your cards, why not play against a friend - choose a tree card, pick a category, highest score wins!

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# Bedgebury National Pinetum



## Christmas tree finder map

### Key

Parking	Go Ape
Cafe	Play areas
Toilets	Picnic tables
Accessible toilet	Viewpoint
Info point	Forest office
Bike hire	

### Our trees

S Scots pine

Y Common yew

N Norway spruce

C Nordmann fir (Caucasian fir)

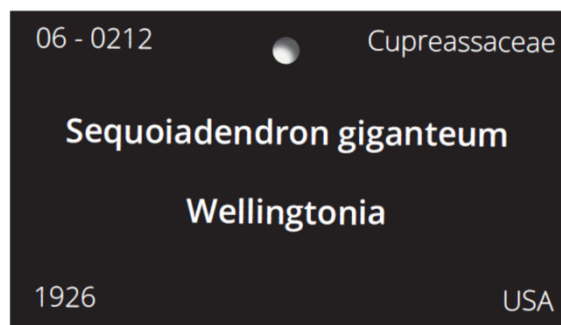
F Fraser fir

W Wollemi pine

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## How to find our trees

All of our trees have a tree label. This tells you the common and Latin name of the tree, when it was planted and where the seed came from. These will help you to identify the tree that you are looking for.



In the table opposite, each tree location has a three-word code. These are what3words codes. You can use the what3words app to help you locate the tree. Simply type the code into the app to see where you and the tree are. You can access what3words here or download the app from your app provider.



Map ID	Tree name	W3W code
S	Scots pine	upwards.sparkles.bells
Y	Common yew	redefined.single.motel
N	Norway spruce	seriously.tasty.twisting
C	Nordmann fir (Caucasian fir)	ramp.lunching.outfitter
F	Fraser fir	maddening.clock.offices
W	Wollemi pine	albatross.greeting.resemble