



Forestry England

Forestry and timber production

Spot the species

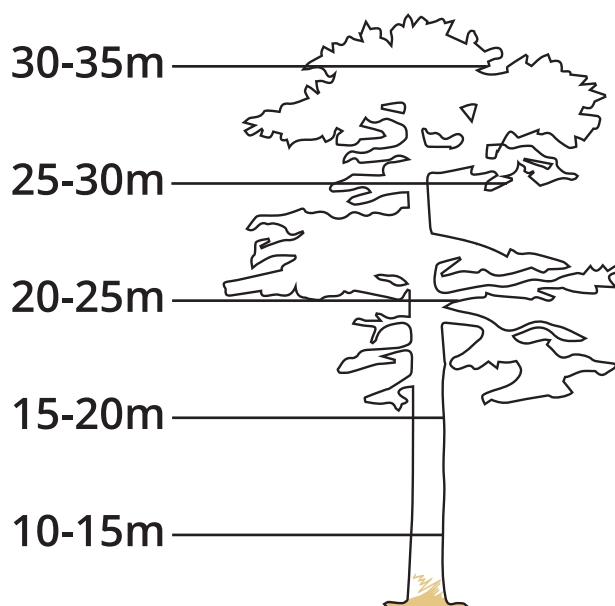
Scots Pine



seen it?

✓ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

How high do you think a typical Scots Pine grows? colour up to your answer



Did you know...?

These trees are often retained beyond the time they would usually be felled because of their natural beauty and conservation importance.

The timber from Scots Pine can be found in telegraph poles, railway sleepers, roof joists...the list goes on!

Millions of these frost-hardy trees were grown from seed and planted out by hand in the early days of Thetford Forest



Corsican Pine



seen it?

☒ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Did you know...?

This pine with long needles and a remarkably straight, slender trunk is one of the major species of Thetford Forest

This species is quick growing and well suited to the dry summers and sandy soils of Breckland. The timber can be used for a variety of things such as telegraph poles, railway sleepers, pit props and building materials.

However, plantations in Britain – including at Thetford Forest – have been affected badly by the fungal disease, red band needle blight: this can weaken, and even kill, the trees.



Oak



seen it?

☒ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Oaks have grown here for over 8,000 years and you can often spot them marking boundaries. Oak timber has been used for generations to build ships, houses and fine furniture. However, it grows slowly compared to pines, so was eventually not thought to be a commercially viable crop for Thetford Forest.

Beech



seen it?

☒ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Beech was another hardwood species considered in the early days as a commercial timber crop. However, Like Oaks, the young trees proved vulnerable to frosts. Wild deer can also damage beech by stripping the bark and “browsing”, or feeding, off young trees with devastating consequences.



Douglas Fir



seen it?

☒ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Valued for its high quality timber, Douglas Fir thrives on deep, fertile soils and is demanding to grow. Previously, it has tended to be grown elsewhere, but the effects of climate change could make it easier to establish more plantations in East Anglia. Experimental planting is being carried out in Thetford Forest.

Larch



seen it?

☒ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Unlike other conifers here, Larch trees shed their needles in winter. Otherwise, they are identifiable by the rosette-like bursts of needles along the stems and branches. Like Douglas Fir, Larch does not fare well in frost but its well seasoned timber is long-lasting and durable; so is in high demand.



Silver Birch



seen it?

☒ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

?

Why do you think these trees were named 'silver birch'?

Areas of Silver Birch can be seen along the Heritage Trail. Many more of the ones you'll spot in the forest were not planted by humans but grew wild from some of the millions and millions of seeds that are scattered each year in the wind. Their slender trunks are distinctive but look for their catkins in early spring.

Much of the Birch timber from the forest goes to make firewood. Some is used to make the hurdles and barriers on Newmarket Racecourse. Other uses include veneers, plywood, parquet floors and broom heads, and the bark can be used in some perfumes.