

# Scots Pine,

Scots pine is the only truly native pine tree in the UK.

It is found in abundance in the Caledonian pine forest which stretches across the Cairngorms National Park, it used to cover much more of Scotland but only 1% of the original forest remains today.

## *Giubhas*

In Gaelic the word for scots pine is 'guibhas' pronounced as 'goo-ass', this can be seen in many place names today including Badaguish, Drumguish and Kingussie.

## **Priority Habitat**

The Caledonian pine forest is a priority habitat being home to rare and endangered species such as creeping lady's tresses, lesser twayblade orchids, Scottish wood ants, capercaillie, crested tit and Scottish crossbill. Mammals include the red squirrel, pine marten and Scottish wildcat.



## Scots Pine Uses

Scots pines were often planted around farms as windbreaks, clusters of pines growing along old droveways helped travellers find where they were going in inclement weather. In 2014 the Scot's pine was voted the national tree of Scotland.

For centuries floating timber, harvested from the Caledonian pine forests, down the river Spey was the main method of timber extraction. Prior to the construction of dams and sluices, floating depended on the timing and size of natural river spates from high rainfall or snowmelt.

Today Scots pine is one of the strongest softwoods available and is widely used in construction, telegraph poles, gate posts and fencing. Its resin is used to make turpentine.

## Pines Under Threat

Scotland's trees and woodlands are facing increased threats from climate change, pests and diseases. However fire is the biggest threat to the woodlands and forest in the Cairngorms National Park. With warm dry summers and growing visitor numbers this threat is increasing.

## What you can do to help

When visiting the Cairngorms National Park never light fires near trees, in forests or on peaty ground. Please guard against all fires by following local advice on where it is safe to have a campfire and make sure you remove all signs of your fire.

Fires are not allowed anywhere during high fires risk periods and barbeques may be restricted to certain areas.

## How to Identify a Scots Pine?

To identify a Scots pine tree look out for its needle-like leaves that are blue-green, slightly twisted and grow in pairs. The bark is scaly red-brown which develop plates and fissures with age. Mature trees grow to 35m and can live up to 700 years. On Mar Lodge estate there is a Scots pine that has been dated back to 1450. We are lucky in the Cairngorms National Park to have remnants of the ancient Caledonian pine forest.

**STAY AT HOME** 

**PROTECT**  
**NHS**  
SCOTLAND

 **save lives**

The current government advice is that there should be no unnecessary travel at this time. Whilst it is important to get outside and exercise you must do so locally and observe social distancing measures. To enjoy the outdoors you can undertake one form of exercise a day such as a run, walk, or cycle. This should be done alone or only with people you live with. During this period there should be no wild camping, fires or barbecues anywhere in the Park.