



FACTSHEET 09

Atlas Cedar

'CAT-900' (Selected stand)



KEY FACTS:

- **Species:** *Cedrus atlantica* (Atlas cedar)
- **Seed stand name and Location:** CAT-900, France
- **Category:** Selected
- **Site suitability:** Research has shown that Atlas cedar is hardy to at least -20°C in the UK. It grows well on dry calcareous soils in the warmer regions of Eastern and Southern Britain with less than 1500mm of rain. As the species is adapted to a Mediterranean climate it can withstand periods of drought and is also tolerant of atmospheric pollution. It is suggested that sites with peat and other wet soils are avoided.
- **Establishment:** The suggested spacing is 2m x 2m requiring 2,500 stems/ha. In the native range it is grown as an even aged crop.
- **Timber use, marketing and processing:** Produces a gold/brown heartwood which is moderately durable and suitable for outdoor purposes. The timber density is around 580kg m³ at 15% moisture content which is similar to Douglas fir at 550kg m³ at 12% moisture content.

SUMMARY:

The Atlas cedar is native to North Africa and was introduced in 1841. It is considered to be the only African tree that thrives in Britain. There is limited forestry experience of the Atlas cedar in the UK but it has been widely planted in France for over a century. Its use in UK forestry is currently expanding due to climate change predictions, especially in the drier, warmer areas of eastern & southern Britain.

Forest Research advice is that seed should be sourced from France or from the native range. Our stock is produced from seed collected from a French 'Selected' stand called CAT-900. This provenance has shown superiority in terms of growth when compared to source identified stands.



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- The Atlas cedar is one of few plantation conifers that will grow on dry calcareous soils.
- Initial growth of Atlas cedar can be slow but eventually becomes vigorous. Good vermin protection measures are required in the first few years as research from the US suggests that the Atlas cedar is very palatable to rabbits.
- Atlas cedar is a potential replacement for Corsican pine on sites that have dry soils and warm summer temperatures.

'CAT-900' Stand Location

Our plants have been produced from seed collected from a French provenance called CAT-900. The seed is actually collected from numerous stands throughout France to provide good adaptability & genetic diversity.

In this example the seed collection locations for the 'CAT-900' stands could vary in location from Paris (3 degrees South of London) or Marseille (8 degrees South of London).



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References:

FRENCH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE *Cèdre de l'Atlas*
SAVILL, PETER S (2013) *The Silviculture of trees used in British forestry 2nd ed.*
FOREST RESEARCH *European Atlas cedar - Tree species and provenances.*

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