

## Abies - Growing Guide

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#### *Silver fir*

There are around 50 species of silver fir of which Burncoose Nurseries currently stocks only a few. Abies are evergreen conifers which dominate the northern mountain regions of Europe, Asia and N. America. They differ from Picea in their disc-like leaf scars and their erect cones which break up while still standing upright on their branches. Male and female 'flowers' or stroboli are produced on the same tree in spring and the female seed cones are often an attractive blue-purple or violet-purple well into the autumn before turning brown later and shedding in winter or in the following spring. Silver firs can reach a great size and are generally conical in shape with branches in more or less regular whorls and flattened in a horizontal manner.

Some years ago the theme of Burncoose's Chelsea stand was 'Endangered in the Wild'. Included with this were several species of Abies which were planted at Caerhays after the show. The three with the most impressive black and purple cones have proved to be Abies pinsapo, Abies homolepis and Abies forrestii. Hopefully we will soon propagate these successfully and offer them in the catalogue.

Abies koreana is the most popular species which we sell because it is slow growing and can be seen at the entrance to the Burncoose gardens. The leaves are dark green above and gleaming white underneath. Numerous small cones are produced each year; even on pot grown plants. The cones are around 3-4in long and a most striking violet-purple. After 30 years growing with us the tree is only 15ft or so tall. This makes it a wonderful architectural or ornamental species for smaller gardens.



*Abies koreana*



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*Abies koreana*



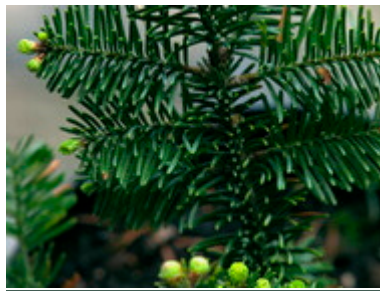
*Abies nordmanniana*



*Abies nordmanniana*



*Abies procera*



*Abies procera*



*Abies concolor*



*Abies concolor*



*Abies delavayi*



*Abies forrestii*



*Abies fraseri*



*Abies fraseri*



*Abies homolepsis*



*Abies pinsapo*



*Abies pinsapo*



*Abies pinsapo*

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