Plants for Christmas trees and Greenery

# Skibelund FP.266

**Seed Source Description**

ORIGIN: The plus trees are selected from two Danish seed orchards (F.808 Ny Saltbjerg and F.824 Tveden), both originating from Ambrolauri in Georgia.

**BREEDING PROGRAM**

A total of 200 plus trees were selected in the two seed orchards. The trees were chosen at the age of 12-14, but before that, there was a consistent removal of the poorest Christmas tree types in the stands. Of the original approximately 40,000 trees in the seed orchards, 200 plus trees were selected, equivalent to a selection rate of 0.5%. The offspring of the seed plantation has now been tested in progeny trials, and the clones have been scored for bud burst time, post-harvest quality (needle retention after harvest), width, needle density (fluffiness), and aphid resistance.

**CLONE SEED PLANTATION**

Of the originally selected 200 plus trees, 17 relatively early-sprouting clones were sorted out, so a total of 183 clones are used in further breeding in the seed plantation. The seed plantation was top-grafted onto an existing Norway spruce plantation in Skibelund.

**GENETIC THINNING**

Genetic thinning was carried out in 2009 and again in 2012/13. A total of 60 clones were removed from the seed plantation: the 29 poorest clones in terms of needle retention and 31 clones that had both poor needle density (fluffiness), large width, and poor needle retention.

**Use**

**CHARACTERISTICS**:

Progeny trials show an improved percentage of primary trees by 11 percentage points compared to direct imports from Ambrolauri. Height growth is similar to Ambrolauri. The bud burst time is slightly later than Ambrolauri, probably due to the fact that the 17 earliest-sprouting plus trees were sorted out before grafting in the seed plantation.

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Rooted in Knowledge

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