Non Timber Benefits

Monterey pine is extremely tolerant of exposure and salt laden winds and is therefore an ideal tree to use in the provision of shelter. It is also considered by the Forest Service as a diverse conifer and as such, when included in forestry development plans, can make a positive contribution to the biodiversity of the resultant woodland. The large cones produced by Monterey pine trees are very popular as a natural decoration in homes, shop window displays and floral arrangements.

Position in Irish Forestry

The virtues of Monterey pine are often the cause of much debate amongst Irish foresters. It is an extraordinarily productive species both here and in other countries with a similar temperate climate. Problems with mortality at establishment and later yellowing and needle cast make many foresters wary of its use. However, if these problems are overcome there is no questioning its undoubted potential as a commercial species in Ireland.

Uses & Markets

Monterey pine timber compares equally with other coniferous species grown in Ireland in terms of its strength properties, finished quality and workability. However, without pruning the timber can suffer from a very high incidence of knots from both branches and cone pegs. There is no developed market for the timber in Ireland. However, in countries such as New Zealand where it is the main productive species it is used for a wide number of end uses from pulping to construction.

Further Information

Further information on growing Monterey pine can be obtained from your local Forest Service Inspector or any Professional Forester.