

Nonnative trees in Latvia – from gardens and parks to forest

Dr.silv. Dagnija Lazdina, Dr.silv. Āris Jansons, Mg.silv. Baiba Jansone
Latvian State Forest Research Institute “Silava”, Riga street 111, Salaspils, Latvia,
dagnija.lazdina@silava.lv



A list of

tree species accepted for regeneration of forest stands

and afforestation of non-forest lands in Latvia contains local and introduced tree species. There are 18 species and 4 genus listed in the Regulation of Cabinet of Ministers of Republic of Latvia No. 308 “Forest regeneration and plantation forest rules”:

Pinus sylvestris L., *Picea abies* (L.) Karst., *Betula pendula* Roth., *Betula pubescens* Ehrh.,
Populus tremula L., *Alnus glutinosa* (L.) Gaertn., *Fraxinus excelsior* L., *Quercus robur* L.,
Tilia cordata Mill., *Acer platanoides* L., *Ulmus glabra* Huds., *Ulmus laevis* Pall., *Alnus incana*
(L.) Moench., *Carpinus betulus* L., *Fagus sylvatica* L., *Prunus avium* (L.) L., *Quercus rubra* L.,
Sorbus aucuparia L.
Salix spp., *Larix* spp., *Populus* spp., *Alnus* spp.

According to the information given in the Atlas of Latvia’s woody plants and monography Dendrology,

Carpinus betulus, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Prunus avium*, *Quercus rubra* and several species of *Pinus*, *Larix*, *Salix* and *Alnus* genus are introduced in Latvia and presented in forest stands.



The total area covered by non-native tree species is small. In the Yearly statistics reports of the State Forest Service **non-native trees are listed in the “other tree species” group**. These tree species cover **11099 ha** and a considerable part of this category are introduced poplars, larch, red oak, willows and European beech in mixture with native tree species.

Current studies have revealed set of **introduced tree species, that would be of interest for further detailed research and potentially for introduction in Latvia** (of appropriate genetic material: provenance / seed orchard / clone): *Pinus contorta*, *Pinus strobus*, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, *Fagus sylvatica*.

Non-native trees and scrub species **were at first used for greening** purposes in city parks and gardens, then, **if trees demonstrated a reasonable growth rate and frost tolerance, they were planted also in forests**, but species with a tendency to be invasive were distributed by wind or animals naturally.

Nowadays invasive

in Latvia’s landscape, including forest stands, is:

Sambucus racemosa L., *Acer negundo* L., *Hipophae rhamnoides* L., *Spiraea sorbifolia* L.,
Cotoneaster lucidus Schldl., *Elaeagnus argentea* Pursh, non Moench., *Swida alba* L.,
Sambucus nigra L., *Spiraea chamadryfolia* L., *Spiraea alba* L., *Spiraea x billardii*, *Syringa vulgaris* L., *Aronia prunifolia* L.