



Seed collecting in Bosnia



Castle Kennedy



Benmore Botanic Garden



Scone Palace Gardens



Lael Forest Garden

Many NTCS sites play an important role in the International Conifer Conservation Programme (ICCP) by providing safe havens for the future of threatened tree species around the world whose native habitats are being lost or damaged.

The ICCP was established in 1991 at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE). It combines taxonomic, conservation, genetic and horticultural research with international capacity building for conifer conservation.

[www.rbge.org.uk/science-and-conservation/genetics-and-conservation/conifer-conservation/](http://www.rbge.org.uk/science-and-conservation/genetics-and-conservation/conifer-conservation/)



## THE NATIONAL TREE COLLECTIONS OF SCOTLAND

The National Tree Collections of Scotland were set up to raise awareness of Scotland's tree collections and to help protect and enhance them for the future.

The NTCS project partners are Scottish Forestry, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, and Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust, working with NTCS site owners and managers.



Balloch Castle Country Park



Ardinglas Woodland Garden

### Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

- take responsibility for your own actions
- respect the interests of other people
- care for the environment.



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# The National Tree Collections of Scotland (NTCS)

## How the Collections began

## What is a Champion Tree?

## Meet the Plant Hunters (then and now)



Brahan Estate

Established in 2011, the NTCS bring together 23 exceptional tree collections from across Scotland.

Their diversity reflects the role many individual landowners played over the centuries collecting and planting specimen trees from all over the world, or their contribution to testing new species and developing forestry techniques in Scotland and overseas.

The NTCS aim to increase public awareness of and access to these collections and to help protect this unique aspect of our national heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.

Spread around the country, and very different in scale and character, the NTCS sites host a diverse range of trees that reflect the interests and successes of past landowners and plant hunters. Plant hunting took off in the 18th and 19th centuries, driven by a surge in interest in tree planting, and the desire of wealthy landowners to improve their gardens. They sought unique, unusual and exotic new tree species from around the world to create the biggest and best collections.



Drumlanrig



Crathes Castle

Most of the NTCS sites boast champion trees at a Great Britain and Ireland or Scotland level. These are trees notable for their age, size, historic link, or other remarkable feature. There are some 700 Scottish champions across the NTCS sites, about a third of which are also champions of Britain and Ireland.



Sweet chestnut at Castle Leod

Details of all champion trees are compiled by the Tree Register of Britain and Ireland (TROBI) [www.treeregister.org](http://www.treeregister.org)

### David Douglas (1799 – 1834)

One of the most prolific and furthest travelled Scottish plant hunters was David Douglas. Responsible for bringing back over 200 new species, he journeyed to Canada, Hawaii, Madeira, the Galapagos and across America. He will be remembered for the towering Douglas Fir, Grand Fir and Sitka Spruce, an original of which can still be seen at Scone Palace, where he started as a garden apprentice.



### Martin Gardner (1954 - present)

“As co-ordinator of the ICCP, much of my work involves overseas fieldwork collecting plant material, with visits to over 30 countries in search of threatened conifers. Although this follows in the footsteps of the intrepid Victorian plant collectors, my work involves establishing collections from threatened species with the aim of helping to safeguard their long-term future.”





