

Borjomi/Tadzrici

GEOGRAPHY

The Tadzrici forest is located in the southern part of the Borjomi-Bakuriana forest district. The total area is 2.600 ha with varying altitude from 1.200-1.900 meters. There are larger groups of trees, but *Abies nordmanniana* is generally found in mixed cultures rather than pure stands. From 1992 onwards, the area has been harvested heavily and especially many old *Abies nordmanniana* have been removed for wood purposes. The harvesting has now been stopped and few good stands remain. We have acquired harvesting rights in compartment 28, which is the only area with significant old growth stands left. The major problem is accessibility to the area as no roads lead to the remote forest area, cattle have to be used to transport the cones out to roadside.

TYPE, SHAPE AND GROWTH

The form and shape of Borjomi/Tadzrici is less uniform than for instance Ambrolauri/Tlugi. Variations are found but generally the provenance produces trees with good branch angle, good shoot form and well covering forward leaning needle-positioning

The Borjomi/Tadzrici is perceived to grow slightly faster than the Ambrolauri/Tlugi provenance. The budding time is almost similar to Ambrolauri/Tlugi or maybe slightly earlier - but hardly any difference - which makes this provenance attractive in locations prone to late spring frost.

RESEARCH AND EXPERIENCE

Borjomi/Tadzrici has been tested in field trials in the "Frost Froe Series", based on seed harvested over several years within specifically marked areas in different height levels in Ambrolauri/Tlugi, Borjomi/Tadzrici, Borjomi/Nedzvi (now National Park), Xulo/Beshumi and Oni/Glola forest districts. The results support the above characteristics of Borjomi/Tadzrici and has this as the superior provenance from Borjomi Forest District.

The Borjomi provenance is well known in the market as this comprised some of the first imports to Western Europe. The well known selected stands in Tversted in Northern Denmark (F526, F527) is perceived to originate from the Borjomi District of Georgia. These stands are now 110 years old and no specific records state their exact origin. Borjomi is after Ambrolauri/Tlugi the most important seed source on the market with a total share of 10-15 % of the European market.

SECURITY OF ORIGIN AND DELIVERY

We are very satisfied with the results of the auction in 2009 where we managed to acquire harvesting rights in compartment 28 for a 10 year period. It has the largest remaining share of old growth trees in Tadzrici and therefore the best and original genetic material available going forward.

The collection in Tadzrici is in accordance with the system used in Ambrolauri/Tlugi with control of the locations of the harvesting groups. The security of origin from Borjomi/Tadzrici is therefore intact and fully traceable.

WORTH KNOWING

Borjomi/Tadzrici has been part of the seed collection area for a long time. It goes all the way back to the Soviet Union and in the 1990's harvesting was also conducted there. The later imports arise mostly from Borjomi/Nedzvi and Borjomi/Axaldaba, which is located in the northern part of the Borjomi forest district. These areas were converted to National Park in 2006 and cone harvesting banned. In the proximity of these areas we find the collection area of Borjomi/Machartskali, where we also have harvesting rights and collect on a continuous basis.

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