

### Silver fir – Conifer with future potential

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Naturgemäße Waldwirtschaft e. V.  
starts „Weißtannenoffensive (silver fir offensive)“

Since the last National Forest Inventory in Germany the area overgrown with Norway spruce (*Picea abies* (L.) KARST.) is decreased 8 %. The main reasons for this reduction are forest conversion in clima-stable mixed forest and calamities caused by climate change.

This is problematic because currently more than 75 % of the value adding of the forest- and wood industry is coniferous based. There will be a shortage of this valuable wood in the future.

This brings about a shortage of income for forest owners and the supply of the sawmill industry. The problem is not helped by the ideas of the nature conservation lobby whose objective is to replace conifers with deciduous trees.



Figure 1: Natural regeneration of silver fir (Timo Ackermann).

Is there an economical interesting and also ecological alternative to deciduous plantation?

The relatively climatically stable silver fir is an option to solve these problems. As scientific results show, silver fir is able to grow on various sites. Due to this reason the silver fir can be yielded outside of it's current growth range on appropriate sites. Therefore the silver fir is an economical interesting and also ecological alternative to deciduous plantation with sustainable available high quality wood.

The ANW started the “Weißtannenoffensive (silver fir offensive)” in February 2017, which is funded by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture. The objective is to collect and communicate practical and scientific knowledge about the silver fir. Therefore there will be 20 meetings in every federal state to inform forest owners, forest engineers and representatives of the sawmill industry about planting, cultivation and the use of silver fir over the next two years. The meetings consist of a theoretical and practical part with excursions in the local forests.

Project partners are the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Rohholzverbraucher e. V. (AGR), the Deutscher Forstverein e. V. (DFV), the Forum Weißtanne e. V., the forest administration of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (AöR) and the forest owners' association of Western Allgäu.

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