

# *J & A Growers Ltd*

## **Nursery Blog - July 2014**

Welcome to a first edition of our Nursery Blog where we intend to give a periodic update of what has been happening on the nursery and highlight some of the current issues affecting us within the industry. It is intended to be a light read and hopefully one that you will find interesting and useful.

Firstly, we are happy to welcome the recent addition of Ed Holmes who joined the team at the start of June. Many of you will know Ed from his time at Trees Please in Northumberland where he spent the last 13 years.

## **Harvest 2013/14**

It was another challenging harvest which seemed even wetter than the one previous, despite us believing this wasn't possible.



This winter saw the release of the tracked John Deere into our fields which managed to just glide across the swamp. The problem is now limited to the trailer running behind the harvesters. Not a cheap fix for five trailers!!!!

## **Seed Sowing Spring 2014**

There were scenes similar to last spring of lakes covering fields destined for seedbeds, but patience paid off as they eventually dried. Seed sowing seemed to take forever as we grabbed each opportunity whenever possible between the downpours. This resulted in some species being sown even later than last spring.

Despite this frustrating start to the next production cycle, the seedling densities look good and plants are now growing hard thanks to warmer temperatures over the past few weeks.

## Recent shots of the nursery



Prunus Spinosa



Prunus Avium



Quercus Robur



Crataegus Monogyna

## Outlook into the unknown

The CAP reforms have yet again left us with much uncertainty as to what demand will be over the next two seasons. It seems that Scotland have made a better effort at bridging the gap and we live in hope of a new grant system being in place soon enough to fund new planting during the winter 2015-16. We must keep pressure on to make this happen in the first instance and to try and overcome this being a problem in the future.

Demand for certain species has increased on the back of Ash no longer being planted, but being able to predict these requirements hasn't been easy so far or straight forward where seed lots are in short supply. It has however strengthened demand for UK grown trees and resulted in the UK growers having a much better winter than our fellow nurserymen around Europe.

We wish you an enjoyable summer and look forward to showing many of you around our fields over the coming months. Visits are welcomed with prior notice.