



Native cunning *Seòltachd dùthchasach*

Pronounced: Sholtack doochasach



Timber production was once the only consideration in these forests.



Twinflower: a rare native flower which grows only in pinewoods.



Wood ants build their nests when the conditions on the forest floor are suitable.



Nowadays stream-sides are managed to create a rich natural environment.

During the 20th Century a forester's main aim was to produce as much timber as possible, as quickly as possible. To achieve this, many areas were densely planted with fast growing conifers *craobhan durcanach* - often species not naturally found in Britain. An unfortunate side-effect of this factory approach was that native *dùthchasach* (local) trees and plants in woodlands were starved of the light and space needed to survive.

Nowadays there is a more balanced and sustainable approach to how the forests are managed. Timber production is just one of many objectives, which also include bio-diversity, landscape design and recreation. Native trees and plants are encouraged, which then provide better habitats for insects, birds and other animals.

In woodlands such as Creag Nay, this means foresters now:

- thin conifers - this creates more light and space for native species of trees and plants; and
- thin trees along the sides of forestry tracks and streams to let native shrubs and plants grow.

As you walk along, you should be able to spot places where this has been done.

Did you know...?

Foresters still have to make sure that dappled shade is left when trees are thinned. Too much light can be just as bad as too little for native trees and plants!

Not all forests can be thinned. Many areas are too windy and the trees will blow over if support from neighbouring trees is taken away.

Native or not...? Dùthchasach no nach eil...?



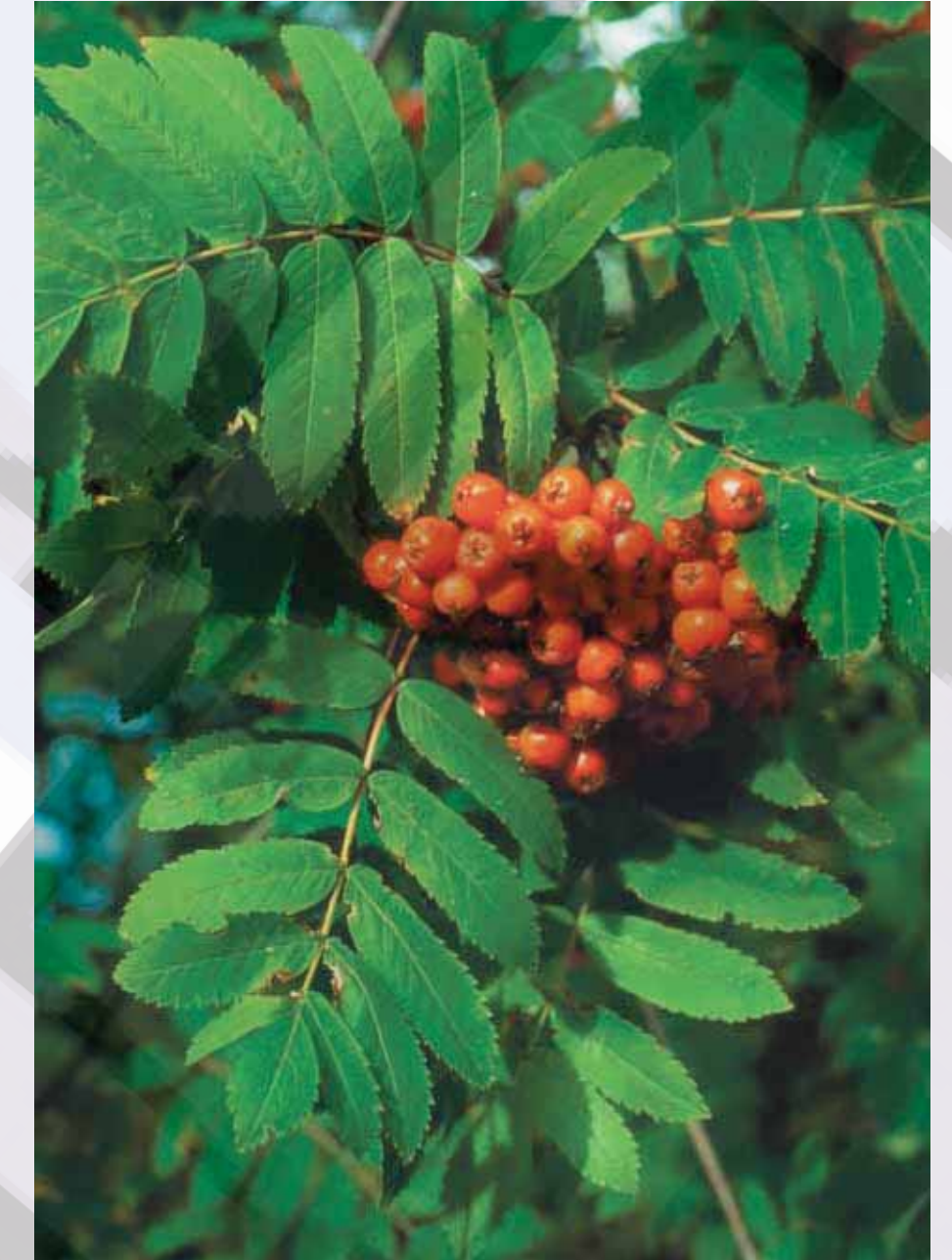
Birchwoods: these are found naturally throughout Scotland.



Sitka spruce: a plant originally brought in from North America.



Scots pine: a tree that is truly local to Scotland.



Rowan: A colourful local, said to ward off witches!