

Stinging Nettle - *Urtica dioica*



Description

Stinging nettle is a species almost all will be familiar with. The plant has deeply toothed oval or heart-shaped leaves, oppositely arranged along a straight hairy stem. The hairs contain formic acid and when touched, break off in the skin causing the stinging effect.

The plant prefers very rich, moist, neutral to basic soils. Stinging nettles are found in a range of habitats with W6-9 the most common amongst woodland communities. The species can be an indicator of a soil that has been historically fertilised—for example through eutrophication. In such sites, weed species that compete with newly planted trees can be an issue, as such effective weed control should be implemented.

Soil regimes

Soil reaction (R)	7
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Nitrogen availability (N)	8
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Acknowledgements:

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