



GATEHOUSE
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Gin Distillery

- (A) 'Weeping Beech': *Fagus sylvatica pendula*
- (B) 'Common Lime': *Tilia Europaea*
- (C) 'Noble Fir': *Abies procera*
- (D) 'Atlas Cedar': *Cedrus atlantica glauca*
- (E) 'Purple Beech': *Fagus sylvatica*
- (F) The Monkey Puzzle or 'Chilean Pine': *Araucaria araucana*
- (G) Additional Parking
- Red Squirrel Feeder Stations

A 'Weeping Beech': *Fagus sylvatica pendula*

At the bottom of the main lawn opposite the croquet lawn is a spectacular example of a 'Weeping Beech' with enormous branches hanging close to and almost perpendicular with the main stem and each draped with long hanging branchlets. This tree was rather lopsided and in danger of toppling over and has been heavily pruned to extend its life as an important tree in the Duchally collection. It was first discovered around 1836.

This tree measures 12-14 metres high and was 22 metres broad at the base before it was pruned.

B. 'Common Lime': *Tilia Europaea*

Coming back down the lawn towards the hotel you will see Common Lime tree. This is a familiar avenue tree and in the past was the most commonly planted lime. They are large vigorous trees with glabrous (hairy) green zig-zag shoots. It has heart shaped leaves and is easily recognised by its densely suckering habit and 'epicormic' growth of dense twigs around the main trunk. This specimen measures some 14-16 metres high and 12 metres broad.

C. 'Noble Fir': *Abies procera*

Beside the lime is a Noble Fir. This is one of the 'Silver Firs', a genus of more than 50 species of evergreen trees, widely distributed in the northern hemisphere, reaching as far as Central America and Taiwan.

The 'Noble Fir' is a most beautiful large to very large tree. The needles are bluish green above with two narrow glaucous bands beneath, crowded on the upper sides of the branchlets. The tree has magnificent cylindrical cones. Noble Fir originates from Western USA and was introduced to Britain in 1830 by David Douglas*.

The specimen here is quite young and measures about 18 metres.

**David Douglas (1799-1834)*

At the age of just 11, David Douglas began training as a gardener at Scone Palace near Perth. He later sailed to America. Douglas introduced more than 200 new plants to Britain including some of the most important trees in our countryside. The Douglas Fir is named after him and he is responsible for introducing some of our most popular garden plants, including lupins and sunflowers. Tragically he died young, gored to death by a bull in Hawaii.

D. 'Atlas Cedar': *Cedrus atlantica glauca*

Behind the Garden Lodges, beside the turning head, is a fine young example of 'Atlas Cedar', thought to be a sub-species of the 'Cedar of Lebanon' and originating from the Atlas Mountains of Algeria and Morocco (North Africa).

It was introduced to Britain in about 1840.

This young example measures 8-10 metres high.

There is another example on the main lawn between the Noble Fir and the Common Lime.

E. 'Purple Beech': *Fagus sylvatica*

In the centre of the main lawn above the hotel is the unmistakable 'Copper Beech'. The beeches are a small genus containing some of the most noble of trees. There are about 10 species in Northern temperature regions. In the British Isles, the European species reach their maximum size in deep well drained soils. The 'Purple Beech' is a form of the native 'Common Beech' and is normally selected from seed-raised plants. The shining bronze of the opening leaves in spring and the rich golden copper of its autumn foliage cannot be excellent by any other tree. This is a fine open grown specimen approximately 16 metres high and with a similar spread. There are a number of other examples in the grounds, look out for them as you take a stroll.

F. The Monkey Puzzle or 'Chilean Pine': *Araucaria araucana*

There are two fine specimens on the edge of the lawn below the dovecote. These unmistakable trees have a unique appearance with long, spidery branches and densely overlapping, rigid, spine-tipped, dark green leaves. They originate from Chile and Argentina, and come from a genus of about 18 species of evergreen trees found in Oceania, Queensland and South America.

The Monkey Puzzle was extensively planted in Victorian times and was first introduced to Britain by Archibald Menzies* in 1795 and later by William Lobb in 1844.

This tree grows to be a medium to large-sized conifer and the large globular cones take three years to mature and break up while still on the tree. The two trees here measure between approximately 10 metres and 18 metres.

It is one of the few South American trees hardy enough to grow in the British Isles and is an excellent wind resister.

**Archibald Menzies*

Scotland has a proud history of plant collecting, with Perthshire staking the main claim to fame. The area boasts two men widely regarded as being amongst the great plant hunters, Archibald Menzies from Aberfeldy and David Douglas from Scone.

Archibald Menzies (1754-1842) was a surgeon-naturalist with the Royal Navy. He initially recorded many of the species now commonly grown in this country and was the first to describe the great conifer trees on North America's western seaboard. His most bizarre find resulted from dining out one night in Chile. Unable to identify some nuts on the table, he popped a few in his pocket. Several sprouted on the voyage home and led to the weird and wonderful looking monkey puzzle tree taking root in Europe.