



### Topiary trees in a types and sizes

“Clients always say that our nursery here in Geldern, Germany, always looks lively and varied. This is due to our speciality: topiary trees such as Pinus bonsai in different varieties – large solitary shrubs, column, espalier, block, spherical and roof shapes. For example, we currently have 250 Tilia cordata blocks in the size 200cm x 100cm x 80cm for a client in Switzerland. A beautiful batch. But I am most proud of the recent delivery for a project in Ireland. A batch of 300 Tilia cordata ‘Greenspire’ and 150 size 30/35 Quercus palustris 30/35 with wired rootball! Trees that are completely appropriate for that project.”

of staff because almost everything had to be dug up manually. Today’s machines have made working at the nursery far less arduous. However, we now need more professionals in order to maintain the quality standards. We can just manage that at our 90 hectare nursery with our team of a total of seven people. We check each other, thereby maintaining the quality.”

### Quality of life for people and animals

“Quality requirements will become even more stringent in the future and companies will get bigger. The range of plants and trees is constantly being adapted and must be resistant to the

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(Frans Peeters)

### Maintaining high quality standards

“I started as a rose cultivator. However, it turned out that it was not really my thing and so I trained as a tree cultivator. Before long I had started work as a production manager in the nursery sector. That was 38 years ago. Naturally, a great deal has changed in those years, quality standards in particular used to be much lower. At that time the branches on the tall trunks were removed to a height of 1.80 metres and hardly anything was done to the crowns. We needed a large number

extreme weather conditions. Fortunately, technology is developing rapidly and I think that a lot is still possible in this area. There are a great number of opportunities for Van den Berk Nurseries because a great deal more green spaces must be planted in order to maintain the quality of natural surroundings for people and animals. However, this is my last year in the nursery. In June 2008 I will be 65 and will retire. I can look back on a wonderful time as a tree grower. Hard work sometimes, but certainly worth the effort!”