



## Standards for local Charcoal Production

- **Lumpwood charcoal** shall be that retained on a mesh of minimum dimensions 12.5mm by 12.5 mm. (This conforms with the BioRegional standard of ½" mesh. Practically this size is available as chicken mesh.)
- **Blacksmiths charcoal** is the "small part" charcoal retained on a 6mm sieve, having been passed through the lumpwood sieve described above. (Practically a sieve made from plasterer's reinforcing (expanded zinc).)
- **Charcoal Fines** are the particles that pass through a 6mm sieve. (Fines can be used for sweetening compost for indoor and outdoor horticulture, and have a traditional use in fine lawns to retain moisture and aeration qualities.)
- Brown ends may be marketed for chimanea/patio heaters, but should be excluded from charcoal as defined above
- Softwood may be used at the bottom of a kiln to begin the burn, but the resultant charcoal product should be of hardwood only (This is consistent with the fact that the group is dealing with broadleaved coppice)
- Bark content is to be a maximum of 10% by weight. (Bark is considered by the group to be of added value, in that it was proof of the natural state of the product. For small branchwood this is a negligible part of the product, but concern was raised that for larger timber burnt in large kilns, that bark could form an unacceptably large proportion. It was resolved to keep to the BioRegional standard of maximum 10% bark.)
- Ash and woodland detritus should be kept to a minimum 0.5% of each (total 1%)
- Producers should be vigilant in excluding stones/pebbles that may be picked up through earthing up operations. (Some explanation on bags would help to explain why the occasional stone may be found.)
- Charcoal should be quarantined for at least 24 hours, to ensure there is no latent combustion.
- Producers should strive to inform customers of the species used in the product (single, and 2-3 named species, thereafter "mixed").