

TRADER NOTICE No. 12 of 2021

December 2021

To: All Professional Operators

Subject: Tree and hedgerow planting proposed under CAP 2023-2027.

Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan will shortly be submitted to the European Commission for their evaluation. The Plan is not likely to be approved until well into 2022, however at this stage, based on the proposed schemes for inclusion in Ireland's Plan, one can anticipate strong farmer demand for trees and hedging plants over the period 2023-2027. The purpose of this Notice is to update the trade on these proposed schemes.

Under the next CAP, Ireland proposes to have two schemes involving options around tree and hedge planting: the Eco-scheme and AECM. Both schemes will be voluntary for farmers to participate in. The uptake of tree/hedgerow planting actions will be determined by farmer demand.

Eco-Scheme

The Eco-Scheme will be an annual scheme with the option to opt-in or opt-out each year. Ireland's Eco-Scheme is proposed to have eight actions; participating farmers will complete two actions in any given year. One of these actions is proposed to be the planting of 3 trees or 1m of hedgerow per hectare submitted for the scheme. The Eco-Scheme will commence in 2023. It is proposed that the trees/hedgerow will have to be planted in the year of the Eco-Scheme commitment so tree/hedgerow planting under the Eco-Scheme may commence in the 2022-2023 planting season.

The Eco-Scheme will aim to engage as many farmers as possible. As a new scheme it is difficult to gauge farmer uptake, however significant demand for trees and potentially hedging plants can be anticipated. For example, if 10% of all farmers do the tree planting action this will equate to 1.4 million trees in a year. If 10% of all farmers decided to plant a hedgerow under the Eco-Scheme in a given year it will require 2.8 million hedging plants in the year.

AECM

AECM will be a multi-annual scheme where farmers will have the option to plant trees and/or hedges. The scheme will take in farmers in tranches commencing in 2023. This means tree/hedgerow planting under the scheme is expected to commence in the 2023-2024 planting season.

Those involved in AECM design estimate a total of 6.9m trees may be required by farmers participating in AECM. They also estimate a potential 13.6m hedging plants will be required by AECM participants.

Appendix 1 outlines the list of proposed tree species and size for the Eco-Scheme and AECM.

Appendix 2 outlines the list of proposed species for Eco-Scheme and AECM hedgerow planting.

Appendix 1: Proposed tree species and size for the Eco-Scheme and AECM

<p>AECM/Eco-Scheme proposed tree species list for planting in lines, groves, rows or parkland.</p> <p>Trees to be at least 0.6-0.9m high and meet the requirements for being “Irish grown”/Irish provenance.</p> <p>Species marked green are those with stronger anticipated demand.</p>	
Alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>)	Wild Cherry (<i>Prunus avium</i>)
Silver birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>), Downy birch (<i>Betula pubescens</i>)	Goat willow (<i>Salix caprea</i>), Rusty willow (<i>Salix cinerea</i> subsp. <i>oleifolia</i>), Eared willow (<i>Salix aurita</i>)
Sessile oak (<i>Quercus petraea</i>), Pedunculate oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>)
Mountain ash (<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>)	Scots pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>)
Irish Whitebeam (<i>Sorbus hibernica</i>)	Bird Cherry (<i>Prunus padus</i>)
Hawthorn/Whitethorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>)	Any fruit tree of Native Provenance
Crab Apple (<i>Malus sylvestris</i>)	

Appendix 2: Proposed species for Eco-Scheme and AECM hedgerow planting

An Eco-Scheme / AECM new hedgerow is proposed to require 5 species from the hedgerow species list below with no one species making up more than 70% of the plants involved. Given this limitation 70% of the hedging plants will probably be Hawthorn/Whitethorn (*Crataegus monogyna*).

Plants to be 2-year-old stock and at a minimum meet the requirements for being “Irish grown”.

In addition, it is proposed that the farmer will have to plant one of the tree species outlined below at least every 50m in the new hedgerow.

Hedgerow species

- Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)
- Dog Rose (*Rosa canina*)
- Guelder Rose (*Viburnum opulus*)
- Hawthorn/Whitethorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)
- Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)
- Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)
- Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*)
- Alder Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*)

Tree Species

- Bird Cherry (*Prunus padus*)
- Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*)
- Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*)
- Grey Willow (*Salix cinerea*)
- Mountain Ash/Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*)
- Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*)
- Hawthorn/Whitethorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)
- Irish Whitebeam (*Sorbus hibernica*)
- Sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*),

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