



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Farm Forestry Booklet

Plant the forest that suits your farm

Forestry Programme 2023 - 2027



For full requirements and terms and conditions
see the Forestry Programme 2023-2027 and
related scheme documents.

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford Y35PN52

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It pays to plant a forest

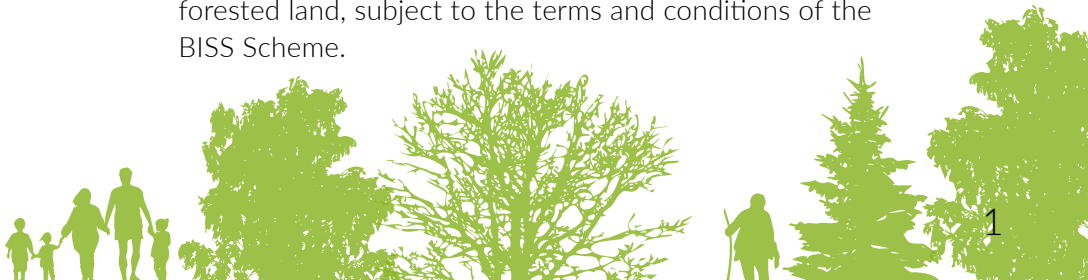
For many farmers planting a forest makes financial sense and provides for a more diverse farming enterprise. It is a long-term investment that is often inherited by the next generation.

The Department covers 100% of the costs to establish the forest, and all payments and earnings are income tax free.

Planting a mix of trees such as oak, birch and holly will guarantee more than €1,100/ha in annual payments for 20 years when established successfully. Similarly a well-managed mixed high forest of mainly spruce with broadleaves delivers an annual payment of €746 for 20 years, as well as providing an income from harvested wood when your forest matures.

Alternatively, keep your livestock on the land with an agroforestry scheme that features €975/ha payments for 10 years; you can also qualify for payments under the Department's organics scheme. Top ups are also available for certain forest types, e.g. the Woodland Environmental Fund includes a one off payment of €1,000/ha once planting is complete.

Planting a forest does not affect your entitlements under CAP and you can continue to claim the Basic Income Support for Sustainability (BISS) Scheme on your forested land, subject to the terms and conditions of the BISS Scheme.





Why plant a forest?

Trees deliver everyday benefits for our environment.

Forests clean the air we breathe and tackle climate change by sequestering carbon from the atmosphere. Forests support over 9,000 jobs by producing valuable and sustainable timber for construction and other industries; strengthen biodiversity and wildlife by providing habitats for birds, animals and insects; and enhance our landscape and provide recreation spaces for our leisure and well-being.

Forestry is an important part of Irish folklore and history, with many of our placenames derived from trees and forests.

There are currently 24,000 forest owners who have planted trees in Ireland. You can join them and add to the many benefits trees bring for our land.



Which scheme suits your farm?

There are eleven support options – or ‘Forest Type’ – available to farmers to plant a new forest. Please note that Forest Type 3 is only for public bodies. You can also plant up to 1 hectare of native trees under the Native Tree Area Scheme.

Choose the option that best suits you

Forest type	Planting option	Description	Grant/ha (excluding fencing)	Annual Premium for farmers (ha)
1	Native forests	Plant a forest with a mix of native tree species.	€6,744	€1,103 for 20 years
2	Forests for water	Protect water bodies by planting a native tree forest.	€6,744	€1,142 for 20 years
3	Forest creation on public lands	Scheme for public bodies to plant new native forests.	n/a for farmers	n/a for farmers
4	NeighbourWoods	Create a forest that's open to the public.	€10,200	€1,142 for 20 years





Forest type	Planting option	Description	Grant/ha (excluding fencing)	Annual Premium for farmers (ha)
5	Emergent forest	Enhance rewilding and emergent native forests.	€2,500	€350 for 20 years
6	Pure Broadleaves – oak or beech	Plant pure oak or beech forests for timber.	€6,744	€1,037 for 20 years
7	Other Broadleaves	Plant a mix of faster growing broadleaf species.	€4,314	€973 for 20 years
8	Agroforestry	Silvopastoral systems (trees and grass)	€8,555	€975 for 10 years
		Silvoarable systems (trees and crops)	€6,000	€829 for 10 years
		Forest gardening (small-scale food forests)	€6,000	€829 for 10 years
9	Seed orchards	Plant seed orchards and seed production areas.	€10,000	€1,142 for 20 years





Forest type	Planting option	Description	Grant/ha (excluding fencing)	Annual Premium for farmers (ha)
10	Continuous cover forestry	Create a continuous cover forest system with conifer and broadleaf trees.	€5,421	€912 for 20 years
11	Mixed high forests: conifer, 20% broadleaves	Plant a diverse conifer forest for timber production with 20% broadleaf species.	€4,452	€863 for 20 years
12	Mixed high forests with mainly spruce, 20% broadleaves	Plant a mainly spruce forest for timber production with 20% broadleaf species.	€3,858	€746 for 20 years
NTA 1	Native tree area scheme – 1ha, no licence required, but approval from the department is necessary	Creation of small native forests.	€6,744	€2,206 for 10 years
NTA 2		Creation of native forests for water protection.	€6,744	€2,284 for 10 years





Afforestation funding examples

Example 1

Plant 8 hectares
(circa 20 acres)

of
Native Forest
Forest type **1**

Annual premium

€8,824

Total premium payment
(20 years)

€176,480



Example 2

Plant 12 hectares
(circa 30 acres)

of **Mixed High Forests**
with mainly spruce
with 20% broadleaves

Forest type **12**

Annual premium

€8,952

Total premium payment
(20 years)

€179,040



Example 3

Plant 5 hectares
(circa 12 acres)

of **Agroforestry**
(forest type 8, silvopastoral)

Forest type **8**

Annual premium

€4,875

Total premium payment
(10 years)

€48,750



Example 4

Plant 1 hectare
(circa 2.5 acres)

of **Native Forest**
without a licence through
the Native Tree Area scheme

Forest type **NTA1**

Annual premium

€2,206

Total premium payment
(10 years)

€22,060



In the above examples there are additional grants payable for all works associated with establishment of your new forest, e.g cost of the trees, planting, fencing, and maintenance.



Additional supports

You can benefit from additional supports if you decide to create a forest on your land.

Support scheme	Description	Grant/ha
Woodland environmental fund	Partner with a business and receive a once off single payment of €1,000/ha on top of your grants received for establishment of eligible Native Forests FT1 & 2.	€1,000
Environment report and grant	An environment report grant is offered to help farmers apply for afforestation licences.	€450 per ha for first ha €400 for second ha €350 for third ha €50 per ha for subsequent hectares to a maximum of 20 hectares



Fencing rates

The Department will cover fencing costs to protect your forest subject to terms and conditions. There is a maximum fencing cap of €50,000 per forest.

Fence Type	€ per metre (IS436 rates)	€ per metre (non IS436 Rates)	IS436 (160m /ha cap)	Non IS436 (120m /ha cap)
Stock	€5.50	€4.50	Max €880 /ha at plantation level	Max €540 /ha at plantation level
Stock/ Sheep	€7.00	€5.00		
Stock/ Rabbit	€7.00	€6.50		
Upgrade to deer	€9.00	€8.00	€1,440 /ha	€960 /ha
Deer	€18.00	€14.00	All deer fencing must be approved in advance. Only sites where at least 70% of the area enclosed by the deer fence of FT 1 to 11 is eligible.	
Deer/ Rabbit	€18.00 New Deer fencing capped at €2,880 /ha	€14.00 New Deer fencing capped at €2,100 /ha		





How to plant your first forest

1 Contact your local farm advisor

Talk to your farm advisor, Teagasc Forestry Advisor or registered forester. They can tell you if your land is suitable for forestry, how establishing a forest might interact with other farming payments, and the various tree species, grants and premium options available.

2 Consult a registered forester

To plant a new forest a farmer must engage a registered forester to make their afforestation application. They can handle the planting, establishment, and management of your forest. They can also provide advice on what options work best.

Approval from the Department is required for all new forest projects where the area involved is greater than 0.1 hectares (approximately 0.25 acres). All paperwork at pre-planting, post-planting and at the second grant instalment stage must be submitted by a registered forester.

See gov.ie/forestry for a list of registered foresters.



3 Apply for an afforestation scheme

Once you have decided on your preferred forest type your registered forester will submit the application on your behalf.

Your forester may need to consult an ecologist on your behalf at application stage depending on the location and circumstances of your land. To help cover the costs of your application, the Department offers a grant for an environmental report.

See gov.ie/forestry for a list of ecologists.

4 Start planting

Planting can begin once you receive written technical approval from the Department and your forester has applied for and received financial approval.

5 How to apply for your forestry premium

The first annual payment is payable once planting is completed successfully. As the forest owner, you are responsible for ensuring the forest is maintained in accordance with good forest practice and the conditions of the scheme. Login to agfood.ie to apply for a forest premium.

Trees you can plant

The trees species you can plant depends on which of the twelve forest types you select. Most forest types require a mix of different species. A selection of eligible species are listed below. You might like to talk to a registered forester to see which forest type best suits you.

Broadleaf trees available:

✓ common alder ✓ beech
✓ downy birch ✓ silver birch
✓ wild cherry ✓ Spanish chestnut
✓ hawthorn ✓ hazel ✓ lime
✓ Norway maple ✓ pedunculate oak
✓ sessile oak ✓ sycamore ✓ rowan

Conifer species available:

✓ western red cedar ✓ Douglas fir
✓ grand fir ✓ western hemlock
✓ European larch ✓ Corsican pine
✓ lodgepole pine ✓ Monterey pine
✓ Scots pine ✓ coast redwood
✓ Norway spruce
✓ Sitka spruce

Other tree species may be available.



Contact and advice

For more information and advice see gov.ie/forestry or contact the Forest Service directly:

T: 053 916 3400 | E: forestryinfo@agriculture.gov.ie

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