



04th October, 2023.

Circular 20/2023

To all Registered Foresters and other Stakeholders

Launch of the Native Tree Area Scheme (NTAS)

Under the Forestry Programme 2023 – 2027, the Minister is now pleased to open the Native Tree Area Scheme for new applications.

Following changes that were made to the Forestry Act 2014 to facilitate small scale planting of native forests, the NTAS scheme allows for the creation of forests without an afforestation licence, subject to the terms and conditions of the scheme.

Within the Native Tree Area Scheme two different options are available to applicants:

- NTA 1 - Creation of Small Native Forests
- NTA 2 - Creation of Native Forests for Water Protection

The extent of the area that can be created under this Scheme is limited to 2 ha per farm holding for the duration of the scheme. Both farmers and non-farmers may avail of support under the scheme. Support will take the form of an establishment grant and annual premium payments over a ten year period totalling €22,060 per hectare for NTA 1 and €22,840 per hectare for NTA 2.

Full details of the Scheme is available on the Departments website at: [gov.ie - Forestry Grants and Schemes \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/forestry-grants-and-schemes/)

Applications may now be submitted by Registered Foresters for the Native Tree Area Scheme.

Any queries should be directed to ForestryAppEnq@agriculture.gov.ie.

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