

# FORESTRY

October 2024

## Let's Talk Trees



*Find out what forest suits you at the upcoming forestry information meetings.*

Teagasc and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) are hosting four free information events in October 2024 (see **Table 1** on page 2 for details). These half-day events open with three short presentations that include a farmer recalling their forestry experience. Attendees will get the opportunity to talk to professional forestry staff one to one about their own particular needs.

These events are free and open to all. Let's Talk Trees will include:

- three short presentations, including a farm case study;
- the Afforestation Scheme's grant and premium details;
- existing forest management support schemes; and,
- individual clinics with professional forestry staff.



No need to register. Further details on:  
[www.gov.ie/events](http://www.gov.ie/events).

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THERE ARE

# 12

FOREST TYPES  
AVAILABLE  
FOR FUNDING  
UNDER THE  
AFFORESTATION  
SCHEME.

Table 1: Let's Talk Trees event times, dates and locations.

Tuesday, October 15	Wednesday, October 16	Tuesday, October 22	Wednesday, October 23
10.00am-1.30pm	10.00am-1.30pm	10.00am-1.30pm	10.00am-1.30pm
Castle Hotel, Main St, Sleeven East, Macroon, Co. Cork, P12 X293	Abbeyleix Manor Hotel, Durrow Road, Abbeyleix, Co Laois, R32 VE24	Hotel Kilmore, Dublin Road, Cavan, Co. Cavan, H12 F6Y7	McWilliam Park Hotel, Kilcolman Road, Claremorris, Co. Mayo, F12 D1W3

## Plant the forest that suits your farm

The Afforestation Scheme funds the creation of many forest types. The first step to establishing a new forest is to choose a type that will suit your land and meet your objectives. Here is a brief description of each forest type. A forest grant application can contain a combination of these forest types.

- **Native Forests** – a new native forest on 'green field' sites, focusing on the planting of native tree species, minimal site disturbance and long-term 'close-to-nature' management.
- **Forests for Water** – the targeted planting of native forests to protect a range of identified vulnerable and/or ecologically important waterbodies.
- **NeighbourWoods** – public and private landowners can create 'close-to-home' woodland amenities in partnership with neighbouring communities.
- **Emergent Forests** – supporting the retention and appropriate management of suitable areas of 'scrub', with the potential for delivering many ecosystem services.
- **Pure Broadleaves (oak or beech)** – the focus of this measure is on the production



What type of forest is best for your land and situation?

- of quality oak or beech timber, while delivering a wide range of ecosystem services.
- **Other Broadleaves** – creating broadleaf forests such as sycamore, birch and alder for the production of quality hardwood timber, while delivering ecosystem services.
- **Agroforestry** – planting land with trees and continuing to produce food through agriculture. Trees, grass/crops and forest gardening systems are supported.
- **Seed Orchards** – supporting the establishment of new seed orchards and seed production areas.
- **Continuous Cover Forestry** – creating production forests, which are suitably

structured to be managed as continuous cover forests from establishment.

- **Mixed High Forests with conifers and 20% broadleaves** – creating production forests with conifer species and 20% broadleaf species.
- **Mixed High Forests with mainly spruce**

and 20% broadleaves – creating production forests with Sitka spruce and 20% broadleaf species, such as birch and alder.

**These forest types require an afforestation licence; however, the Native Tree Area Scheme (see below) does not.**

## Native Tree Area Scheme

The Native Tree Area Scheme (NTAS) offers incentives for establishing small native forests on farmed land. This Scheme will not require an afforestation licence, but planting is subject to the eligibility criteria and pre-emptive measures of the NTAS. NTA1 and NTA2 refer to two different options or 'interventions' available to applicants: NTA1 involves the creation of small native forests; and, NTA2 is aimed at creating new native forests, along undisturbed water setbacks to protect and enhance water quality and aquatic ecosystems. Eligibility is open to farmers and non-farmers of lands used for farming purposes. The NTAS provides landowners with an establishment grant of €6,744 per hectare, along with a 10-year premium of €2,206 (NTA1) and €2,284 (NTA2) per hectare.

### Scheme requirements

For NTA1, the tree planting area must not be less than 0.1ha and not greater than 1.0ha. The area may consist of multiple smaller blocks (such as the corners of fields), provided these smaller blocks are not less than 0.1ha. All parcels must be 20m or greater in width. However, for NTA2 the overall forest width, which represents the

payment area width, must be not less than 20m and not greater than 24m. A 10m-13m water setback must be created with tree planting not exceeding 20% of the area of the setback. No trees to be planted within 2m of the aquatic

feature. NTA2 must be no greater than 1.0ha. Applications must be carried out through a registered forester, who will prepare and submit your application through the DAFM online application system. It is important to note that even though an afforestation licence is not required for the NTAS, these small forests are protected by the Forestry Act 2014, making it a permanent land use change.

**Scan the QR code for further information on forestry supports, upcoming forestry events, and contact details for your local forestry advisor.**



*An oak sapling.*



## Building resilient forests



*Our forests face new threats due to climate change.*

Timely management is an important factor in building the resilience of Irish forests. This is particularly so for forests facing potential future challenges from climate change and emerging pests. Mitigation of potential impacts and enhanced forest stability can be achieved through a proactive approach to forest management. For example, selective thinning is a time-critical forest management intervention that can contribute to forest resilience. Appropriate thinning reduces competition among trees, promotes vigorous growth, improves air circulation, and can help to reduce susceptibility to pests and diseases. Removal of weaker trees, in appropriate thinning operations, results in the remaining stronger healthier trees being better placed to withstand future threats, including new pests or extreme weather. Appropriate species selection is also a critical factor in terms of adapting to climate change. Selection and planting tree species that are resistant to emerging pests and more tolerant of changing conditions is essential, particularly with predicted warmer and

wetter conditions for Ireland. In addition, good planning of initial site drainage and timely improvements in existing drainage systems for wetter areas will help prevent waterlogging and related diseases.

### Addressing disease and pest challenges

Pest and disease control is another critical area, particularly with the increasing threat from potential new invasive species. For example, emerging bark beetle and fungal diseases pose threats to forest health as the climate warms. Continuous vigilance, early detection and a rapid response are critical actions. Regular monitoring is key to identifying threats quickly. This can allow swift interventions with the use of biological controls or pesticides, as appropriate, minimising spread and potential damage. Timely intervention can also facilitate wind and storm management. For example, establishing shelterbelts to protect against strong winds and regular management with continuous cover forestry (CCF) ensures that suitable forests are better equipped to resist storm damage. Establishing and managing firebreaks and management of fuel loads will help prevent the spread of wildfires. This is important as fire risk may increase with rising temperatures. To summarise, timely management – through active forest management, species selection, pest monitoring and storm preparation – will be critical in building the resilience of our forests against future pest and environmental challenges.