

The Native Tree Area Scheme

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1 What is the Native Tree Area Scheme? The Native Tree Area Scheme (NTAS) is designed to promote afforestation in Ireland by supporting the creation of native forests. It offers incentives for establishing small native forests on farmed land. This scheme will not require an afforestation licence, subject to the terms and conditions of the NTA scheme.

NTA1 and NTA2 refer to two different options or 'interventions' available to applicants:

- NTA1 involves the creation of small native forests. It focuses on supporting the establishment of new native forests on farmed land.
- NTA2 involves the creation of native forests for water protection. It is aimed at creating new native forests, along with undisturbed water setbacks to protect and enhance water quality and aquatic ecosystems.

This intervention is particularly focused on addressing water-related environmental priorities.

2 Who is eligible to apply? Eligibility is to open farmers and non-farmers of lands used for farming purposes, including individuals aged 18 or over with a Personal Public Service Number (PPSN). Companies can also apply, providing their company registration details.

It's essential that the land is currently used for farming, (farming can be any land use such as grazing, cutting silage, tillage or horticulture) and ownership should be free of constraints like joint grazing rights or right of way.

3 What financial supports are available for NTAS? The Native Tree Area Scheme (NTAS) supports vary based on the interven-

tion chosen (NTA1 or NTA2), the area planted, and subject to full adherence to scheme requirements. Here's a breakdown:

- Establishing a native forest under NTA1 can provide landowners with an establishment grant of €6,744 per hectare.

In addition, an annual premium of €2,206 per hectare for up to 10 years is available for approved applicants, resulting in a potential total premium of €22,060 per hectare.

- NTA2 – Under NTA2, approved landowners can receive a similar establishment and shelter grants of €6,744 per hectare.

The annual premium for NTA2 amounts to €2,284 per hectare, payable for up to 10 years, totalling a potential premium of €22,840 per hectare.

4 How do you apply? Applications must be carried out through a registered forester who will prepare and submit your application through the Department of Agriculture online application system. Applications must meet the mapping standards as outlined in the Forestry Standards Manual.

The NTA scheme is outside the general afforestation programme



Sessile oak is considered acceptable for planting under the scheme.



and does not require an afforestation licence, so the applications are being processed relatively quickly.

5 Who does the work? The initial screening for land eligibility and consultation can be done with your local Teagasc forestry advisor. However, the on-site assessment and planning is handled by a registered forester, chosen by the applicant.

Execution of planting and fencing can be carried out by the landowner as long as scheme standards and requirements are reached. Alternatively, the registered forester can arrange to have this work carried out for you.



It's an incredible scheme, especially for smaller pockets of marginal farmland – it's a fantastic opportunity to transform these spaces into thriving ecosystems.

Jim Curtin, Co Cork



The NTA scheme is outside the general afforestation programme and does not require an afforestation licence.

6 What tree species are planted?

The following tree species are considered acceptable for planting under the scheme:

- Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*).
- Strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*).
- Silver birch (*Betula pendula*).
- Downy birch (*Betula pubescens*).
- Hazel (*Corylus avellana*).
- Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*).
- Crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*).
- Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*).
- Black poplar (*Populus nigra*).
- Aspen (*Populus tremula*).
- Wild cherry (*Prunus avium*).
- Bird cherry (*Prunus padus*).
- Sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*).
- Pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*).
- Goat willow (*Salix caprea*).
- Grey willow (*Salix cinerea*).
- Bay willow (*Salix pentandra*).
- English whitebeam (*Sorbus anglica*).
- Whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*).
- Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*).
- Irish whitebeam (*Sorbus hibernica*).

Planting these native tree species contributes not only to the environmental objectives of the scheme but also helps enhance biodiversity, combat climate change, and supports the overall sustainability of Ireland's natural landscapes.



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Forestry Creation clinics 2024

County	Location	Eircode	Date	Contact for appointment
Carlow	Oak Park	R93 XE12	Tuesday 30 January	059-9183555
Cavan	Ballyhaise	H12 E392	Tuesday 23 January	049-4338300
Clare	Ennis	V95 R889	Tuesday 13 February	087-7102739
Clare	Scarriff	V94 NX58	Tuesday 30 January	087-7102739
Cork (East)	Mallow	P51 NF82	Wednesday 07 February	022-21936
Cork (West)	Macroom	P12 TX32	Wednesday 24 January	026-41604
Donegal	Ballybofey	F93 R853	Wednesday 24 January	074-9131189
Donegal	Ballybofey	F93 R853	Wednesday 31 January	074-9131189
Dublin	Kinsealy	D17 EF63	Tuesday 13 February	01-8459000
Dungaravan	Waterford	X35 PF60	Friday 2 February	058-41211
Galway	Ballinasloe	H53 HX21	Tuesday 30 January	090-9642456
Galway	Tuam	H54 VE86	Thursday 08 February	093-28123
Kerry	Killarney	V93 W935	Wednesday 31 January	064-6632344
Kerry	Listowel	V31 N971	Wednesday 07 February	087-7102739
Kildare	Naas	W91 HP38	Wednesday 24 January	045-879203
Kilkenny	Kilkenny	R95 RX30	Friday 26 January	056-7721153
Kilkenny	Mullinavat	X91 YW32	Thursday 25 January	051-998137
Laois	Portlaoise	R32 CF21	Monday 29 January	057-8621326
Leitrim	Mohill	N41 W580	Thursday 08 February	071-9631076
Limerick	Newcastle west	V42 DY03	Tuesday 06 February	087-7102739
Longford	Longford	R39 T180	Monday 05 February	043-3341021
Louth	Dundalk	A91 PVW4	Thursday 01 February	042-9332263
Mayo	Ballinrobe	F31 DP26	Thursday 25 January	094-9541125
Mayo	Westport	F28 W681	Tuesday 06 February	098-28333
Meath	Navan	C15 NR79	Thursday 25 January	046-9021792
Monaghan	Monaghan	H18 Y563	Tuesday 06 February	047-81188
Offaly	Tullamore	R35 TP60	Wednesday 31 January	057-9321405
Roscommon	Castlereagh	F45 NW99	Thursday 01 February	094-9620160
Roscommon	Roscommon	F42 XC63	Tuesday 23 January	090-6626166
Sligo	Ballymote	F56 A585	Tuesday 30 January	071-9183369
Tipperary	Clonmel	E91 Y394	Wednesday 24 January	052-6121300
Tipperary	Nenagh	E45 H240	Monday 22 January	067-31821
Tipperary	Thurles	E41 AK40	Tuesday 23 January	0504-21777
Westmeath	Mullingar	N91 PK10	Monday 22 January	044-9340721
Wexford	Enniscorthy	Y21 ED27	Wednesday 31 January	053-9239210
Wicklow	Tinahely	Y14 AN20	Thursday 01 February	0402-38171



Participants are encouraged to consult with Teagasc and registered foresters to determine the most suitable species for their specific site conditions. A maximum of 25% Scots pine can be planted. The tree species mix and composition are determined by the requirements of the two NTA scenarios.

7 What are the NTA scenarios?

Scenario 1 – dry mineral soil (e.g. podzols, brown podzols and brown earths).

Planting mixture – oak (30%), birch (30%) Scots pine (25%) and other native species (15%). Oak to be planted in predominantly pure groups, with birch scattered intimately throughout. Scots pine planted in small, pure groups, focusing on parts of the plot and away from any watercourses adjoining or crossing the plot. The remainder of the birch to be planted in pure groups.

Scenario 2 – wet mineral soil (e.g. gleys) Planting mixture – alder (50%), birch (30%), oak (15%) and other native species (5%). Alder and birch may be planted in pure groups (30 to 40 trees), with groups interspersed alternately. Oak may be planted in small pure groups, focusing on the dryer parts of the plot.

8 Is this a permanent land use change?

Yes, forests established under NTAs are protected by the Forestry Act 2014, making it a permanent land use change.

NTA2 involves the creation of native forests for water protection.

9 What are the restrictions on the planting layout?

A minimum tree planting spacing of 3m x 3m is required, giving a planting density of 1,100 trees per hectare. Where the installation of deer shelters is necessary a minimum tree spacing of 4m X 4m is required giving a planting density of 465 trees per hectare.

- NTA1: the tree planting area must not be less than 0.1 hectare and not greater than 1.0 hectare. The area may consist of multiple smaller blocks (such as the corners of fields) provided these smaller blocks are not less than 0.1 hectare. All parcels must be 20m or greater in width.

- NTA2: the overall forest width, which represents the payment area width must be not less than 20m and not greater than 24m in width. A 10m to 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 one hectare.

10 When does payment occur?

Payments, including grants and annual premiums, are made at different stages of the process. Grants will be paid in two instalments. The first instalment may be claimed immediately after successful planting.

The second instalment can be claimed at least four years after planting has been completed. Premiums are claimed annually over the 10 years of the scheme.