

FORESTRY

April 2025

Talking Timber 2025

EDITED BY
FRANCES MCHUGH,
FORESTRY COMMUNICATIONS
SPECIALIST



Talking Timber 2025 will focus on marketing post-storm conifer timber.

Clayton Hotel, Clarion Road, Ballytivnan, Ballinode, Co. Sligo, F91 N8EF

Tuesday, April 15, 2025, 9.30am-2.30pm

Register at www.teagasc.ie/talkingtimber

Teagasc's annual timber marketing event returns with a particular focus on the post-storm harvesting response. This event, held in association with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), and Forest Industries Ireland (FII), will address the harvest and marketing of timber in the aftermath of recent storms.



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main timber products harvested from a forest: sawlog; palletwood; stakewood; pulpwood; and, energy wood. All have different dimensions and value.



There will be a chance to assess the quality of timber on display.

The event includes:

- an outdoor demonstration organised by FII, with a focus on post-storm response, where attendees can view and discuss the quality and assortments of timber required by Irish sawmills;
- short conference-style presentations from forestry experts offering perspectives, advice, and experiences of what is involved in harvesting conifers successfully; and,
- a forest industry expo, representing a range of businesses, State and educational organisations, and forestry service providers, will offer valuable networking, information exchange and ‘doing business’ opportunities with forest owners.

Approximately 12,000ha of private forests have been affected by this year’s winter storms. Constructive advice is now required to address a range of challenges, including immediate damage assessment, financial analysis of impacts, optimising timber markets, and guidance on forest restoration. Talking Timber will give forest owners an opportunity to engage with timber buyers, harvesting contractors and registered foresters. Storms such as Darragh and Éowyn pose serious logistical, planning and financial challenges for forest owners, but they can also offer opportunities for forest regeneration and management if the impact is handled carefully.

Forestry events

Talking Timber is one of three events being held this April to support forest owners impacted by recent storms. Scan the QR code for all upcoming events.



Have you applied for your annual forestry premium?

All applications for 2025 premiums must be made online (paper Form 4s will no longer be issued).

Payment of 2025 annual forestry premiums commenced in January of

this year. To apply for your annual premium payment, log on to www.agfood.ie, enter your log-in details, and select ‘Forestry Grants & Premiums’ from the menu of applications.

Then select the option to view Your Outstanding Form 4s, select a contract by highlighting your contract number, and follow the process until you 'Submit Application'. All forestry payments are

paid directly into the applicant's nominated bank account. If you are new to DAFM online services, you will need to register to receive your log-in details in the post.

Forestry programme open for applications

A nationwide series of forestry clinics for people who are considering forestry were held in January and February, and were very popular. If you missed these clinics, you are still welcome to contact your local forestry development officer to discuss any aspect of new forestry planting or forest management – see www.teagasc.ie/forestrystaff. The following is a brief summary of available grants for new planting and management of existing forests open under the forestry programme.

Afforestation Scheme

The Afforestation Scheme supports the creation of a range of 12 different forest types with varying objectives. An afforestation licence will be required. Grant rates and premiums vary depending on forestry type. For example, Forest Type 1/Native Forests attracts a grant of €6,744/ha and an annual premium of €1,103/ha for 20 years (farmers), or Forest Type 10/Continuous Cover Forestry has a grant of €5,421/ha and an annual premium of €912/ha for 20 years (farmers).

Native Tree Area Scheme

The Native Tree Area Scheme (NTA 1 & 2)



The Afforestation Scheme supports 12 different forest types.

supports the creation of small native forests (up to one hectare) on farmed land. An afforestation licence is not required. With a grant of €6,744/ha and an annual premium of €2,206/ha for 10 years, landowners can check with their forester or Teagasc forestry advisor if a specific parcel of land qualifies for this scheme.

Tree stability

A synthesis of the research by Dr Niall Farrelly, Teagasc.

A recent paper 'Unearthing Current Knowledge Gaps in Our Understanding of Tree Stability: Review and Bibliometric Analysis' was published by Teagasc Walsh Scholar Emmanuel Ekoma. The research undertook an analysis of tree stability research, covering international literature on the subject from 1983 to 2023. The paper found that most literature on the subject was from the USA, France, and Italy. Despite fewer publications, literature published in Scotland and England is heavily referenced, and is of particular interest to Ireland as the soil, weather and forest types are similar to Ireland. The study indicates that tree stability is influenced by multiple factors; root architecture, soil properties, wind speed, and forest management all influence the biomechanics of trees in the forest. Much of the literature focuses on the areas of windthrow resistance and root anchorage, and what are the factors associated with increased or reduced stability in trees. However, there are notable gaps in the research, including an understanding of the role of soil type, climate change, and species-specific responses to wind. Studies often rely on small-scale experiments or simulations, limiting real-world applicability. The studies have a tendency to examine these aspects individually,



Windblow is a complex phenomenon, influenced by root architecture, soil properties, wind speed, and forest management, which contribute to the biomechanics of trees in the forest.

while studies covering an integrated approach to understanding the role of multiple factors that govern tree stability are more limited.

The review emphasises the need for interdisciplinary collaboration, advanced modelling techniques, and long-term field studies to improve predictions of tree failure. There is a lack of robust data on how different soil types and textures influence tree stability, particularly concerning soil failure during windthrow events. Existing models cover 'endemic' windthrow and lack applicability in 'catastrophic' storm events. The role of soil properties, the type and timing of management interventions and the windspeeds that cause tree failure are not well understood. The provision of such information may give a greater understanding of windblow and ultimately lead to better strategies for maintaining stable and resilient tree populations into the future.