

# OAKPROV

## Establishment of Irish oak seed stand and progeny trials

### PROJECT TEAM

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**COMPLETION DATE:** The nursery stage of this project was completed in June 2007 and the field trials are being established in 2008 and 2009.

### BACKGROUND

Oak (*Quercus petraea* and *Q. robur*) are important native broadleaf species that occupy a significant proportion of the current broadleaf planting programme in Ireland. While it is Forest Service policy to use home-collected seed, there are good and poor native sources. For this reason it is necessary to identify good seed sources, but perhaps more importantly to identify sources that should be avoided.

### OBJECTIVE

The objective of this project is to establish a series of field trials to test the productivity and quality of a range of both registered Irish oak seed stands and 'source identified' Irish seed sources.

### PROGRESS

Seed from 11 registered Irish seed stands and 10 'source identified' stands were sown in containers in a heated glasshouse in the spring of 2008. Plants were moved out of the glasshouse in July and hardened off.

As with the ash material grown for the ASHQUAL project, the close spacing of the cells in the trays resulted in the more vigorous plants overtopping the less vigorous individuals, resulting in a wide range of different sized plants. In December 2008 one trial was planted in Camolin Forest in Co Wicklow.

### ACTIVITIES PLANNED

A second trial will be planted in early 2009. It is proposed to line out all plants in a nursery bed and grow them for establishment of a third field trial in autumn/winter 2009/10.