



The national catalogue of seed stands

PROJECT TEAM

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COMPLETION DATE: The national and EU seed stand listings are reviewed and updated on an annual basis and a new updated listing at national and EU level is produced at the end of each calendar year.

BACKGROUND

On becoming a Member of the European Union in 1973, the Irish State was obliged to comply with a number of Council Directives on the Marketing of Forest Reproductive Material. These Directives were updated in 1999, and new regulations came into force across all member states from 1 January 2003. In compliance with the regulation, Ireland is required to draw up a national register of the basic material of the various species approved on its territory. This is the responsibility of the regulatory authority, the Forest Service, which with COFORD carries out the annual update of the National Catalogue of Seed Stands.

OBJECTIVE

To comply with the EU Directive on the marketing of forest reproductive material as well as to monitor and satisfy national forest reproductive material (FRM) requirements, where possible, from well adapted, productive and suitable forest reproductive material from home sources. Where home sources are not available, national needs are satisfied by suitable overseas material.

PROGRESS

The main progress during 2009 was the identification of stands for the production of forest reproductive material of the main commercial conifer species, especially Sitka spruce, Norway spruce and to a lesser extent lodgepole pine. Stands were also registered in Douglas fir, Japanese larch, western red cedar and Scots pine. One stand of pedunculate oak in private ownership was also registered. In recent years, supply of forest reproductive material for lodgepole pine was provided from seed orchards; however, these are in decline and production of seed is low. As an interim measure, until new orchards are established, suitable stands of known origin will be selected and used as seed sources for lodgepole pine. During 2009 one seed collection area for the species was registered.

In recent years, seed stands have been thinned to increase seed production. Oak stands at Kilcooley and Donadea and a beech stand at Kilbor were thinned in 2009.

It should be noted that 2009 was particularly poor for tree seed production in Ireland, especially in the broadleaved species.

As outlined in the previous annual report, since the 1970s an active Sitka spruce breeding programme has been ongoing in Ireland. From an original selection of over 550 plus-trees, 86 have been proven in field trials to have superior growth and quality characteristics. These are retained at Kilmacurra, and are the basis for selected Sitka spruce now available. They are classified as 'tested' material. A number of hedged orchards have been established at the Coillte Aughtim nursery. These were added to in the 2007, 2008 and 2009 lists.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED

Continue review and updating of the national catalogue in line with current demands for forest reproductive material and related matters.

OUTPUTS

The national and EU listings were completed on schedule at the end of 2009. The current area of seed stands is shown in Table 1.

FOREST REPRODUCTIVE MATERIAL

Table 1: Current area of seed stands as at 31 December 2009.

		Number of stands	Area (ha)
BROADLEAVES			
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	11	113.3
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	8	155.8
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	18	80.3
Birch	<i>Betula pubescens</i>	6	26.0
Pedunculate oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	45	780.0
Sessile oak	<i>Quercus petraea</i>	44	1381.3
Spanish chestnut	<i>Castanea sativa</i>	3	8.6
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	4	7.0
MIXED SPECIES			
Mixed species		3	52.8
CONIFERS			
Corsican pine	<i>Pinus nigra</i> var. <i>maritima</i>	2	63.1
Douglas fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	21	203.6
European larch	<i>Larix decidua</i>	4	19.7
Hybrid larch	<i>Larix x eurolepis</i>	1	2.9
Japanese larch	<i>Larix kaempferi</i>	16	68.7
Lawson cypress	<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	1	3.3
Lodgepole pine	<i>Pinus contorta</i>	15	138.1
Monterey pine	<i>Pinus radiata</i>	9	21.7
Norway spruce	<i>Picea abies</i>	36	347.3
Scots pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	19	158.2
Sitka spruce	<i>Picea sitchensis</i>	73	610.9
Western red cedar	<i>Thuja plicata</i>	5	14.9
Yew	<i>Taxus baccata</i>	3	33.1
TOTAL		347	4290.6