PLANFORBIO

RHODO

Achieving effective rhododendron control

PROJECT TEAM

Dr Nick McCarthy, Waterford Institute of Technology*
Dr Sandra Irwin, University College Cork
Dr Daniel Kelly, Trinity College Dublin
Prof. John O'Halloran, University College Cork

*Address correspondence to:
nmccarthy@wit.ie*

COMPLETION DATE
November 2011

OBJECTIVES

- Increase knowledge of rhododendron invasion through investigation of seed longevity, growth rates and soil characterisation.
- Investigate optimum control techniques for rhododendron including stem injection, stump treatment and organic methods.
- Produce a best practice manual for rhododendron clearance based on a set of judicious control trials, quantitative monitoring and planning tools.
- Economic assessment of clearance costs for rhododendron.
- Produce national policy recommendations based on the findings of the project.

PROGRESS
Signing of the project contract was delayed until October 2007.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED
A thorough literature review will be undertaken. Work will commence on the basic ecology of the invasion process of rhododendron, with identification of sites, setting up trials, soil sampling and analysis, and the commencement of the collection and collation of data. A best practice manual will be explored with the Advisory Committee to decide on the best way to progress this, but it is envisioned that work on identification of a biological control for rhododendron may also be carried out. Management, supervision and outreach will continue throughout the year.