



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

# Native Tree Area Scheme

Funded under the Forestry Programme 2023-2027



## Introduction

The Native Tree Area (NTA) Scheme provides financial support to encourage small scale planting of trees without the requirement for an afforestation licence on farmland not previously under forest.

Forests established under this Scheme must satisfy the following statutory requirements:

- 1 an area of not less than 0.1 hectare and not greater than 1 hectare, or
- 2 an area of not less than 0.1 hectare that is not greater than 20 metres in width, and
- 3 where the trees concerned are native tree species only, of which not more than 25% are Scots pine.

## Scheme Outline

The Native Tree Area Scheme has been devised to enable the State to pursue and achieve the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient, biodiversity rich and environmentally sustainable economy.

Within the Native Tree Area Scheme two different interventions are available to applicants:

- 1 **NTA 1 – Creation of Small Native Forests**  
Supports the establishment of new native forests on farmed land thereby contributing to Ireland's targets in relation to a wide range of environmental priorities particularly climate change and biodiversity.
- 2 **NTA 2 – Creation of Native Forests for Water Protection**  
Creating new native forests and undisturbed water setbacks that can be used to deliver meaningful ecosystem services that protect and enhance water quality and aquatic ecosystems. The creation of these permanent, semi-natural landscape features alongside aquatic zones will protect and enhance water quality and aquatic habitats into the future. These forests also provide wider biodiversity functions by protecting and expanding existing native forests. Through the creation of these green corridors, existing native forests can be reconnected thereby addressing the negative effects of fragmentation.



## Grant and Premium Rates

Forestry premiums will be payable only for new forests which qualify for a Native Tree Area grant from the Department and will be paid in two instalments for a maximum period of 10 years. The grant and premium rates are specified in the tables below.

For the purposes of eligibility and payment of grant and premiums, no differentiation is made between farmers and non-farmers.

### Native Tree Area Scheme Grant Rates

NTA	Establishment Grant (€ per ha)		Deer Tree Shelter Grant Max. Allocation (€ per ha)
	1st Grant	2nd Grant	
NTA 1	5,058	1,686	€1,600
NTA 2	5,058	1,686	€1,600

### Native Tree Area Scheme Fencing Grant Rates

NTA	Fence Type	Rate (€ per m)		Allocation (m per ha)		Max. Allocation (€ per ha)	
		IS436	Non-IS436	IS436	Non-IS436	IS436	Non-IS436
NTA 1	Stock	5.5	4.5	240	180	1,320	810
	Stock & Sheep	7	5	240	180	1,680	900
	Stock & Rabbit	7	6.5	240	180	1,680	1,170
NTA 2	Stock	5.5	4.5	400	300	2,200	1,350
	Stock & Sheep	7	5	400	300	2,800	1,500
	Stock & Rabbit	7	6.5	400	300	2,800	1,950

### Native Tree Area Premium Rates

Category	Annual Premium (€ per ha)	Total Premium (€ per ha)
NTA 1	2,206	22,060
NTA 2	2,284	22,840

# Application procedure

To plant a new forest under the Native Tree Area Scheme, talk to your farm advisor, Teagasc Forestry Advisor or registered forester. They can advise if your land is suitable for forestry. The next step is to engage a registered forester to make a Native Tree Area application.

Please note that work may only commence following written approval.

# Where to go for further information

This leaflet provides an outline of the Scheme and must be read in conjunction with the relevant Scheme Document. Further information is available from:

Forestry Approvals Section  
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine,  
Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford Y35 PN52.

Telephone: 053 916 3400 or 053 916 3425  
Email: [forestryinfo@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:forestryinfo@agriculture.gov.ie)

For terms and conditions of Native Tree Area Scheme  
see: [gov.ie/AfforestationScheme](https://gov.ie/AfforestationScheme)