

## A Roscommon forest owner's journey



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## A bit about myself..

- Boyle, North Roscommon
- Horticulturalist
- Acot/Teagasc
- Garden Centre & Landscaping business
- ...and forestry owner

## Getting into forestry

- A chance encounter...
- Commercial conifers
- “No brainer”
- Farmer status



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## The 1<sup>st</sup> forest..

- **1996** - Looking for local land...and a loan!
- 44 acres near Boyle – good, heavy upland soil – £950 per acre
- 60% Sitka spruce; 30% Norway spruce; 10% Sycamore
- Employed own contractors

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## My approach to planting..

- Good soil = good tree growth = *Plant good land!*
- Sitka spruce – good establishment – best returns
- Plant early in the season



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## My forestry in 2023

- Added to portfolio in subsequent years
- 300 acres – 6 forests – timber sales and premium income
- All Sitka and Norway spruce  
bar 25 acres Oak and Ash



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## Thinning and selling timber..

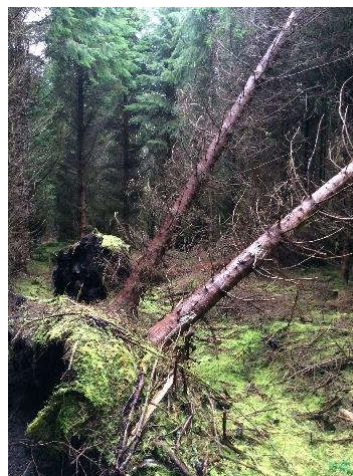
- Four forests now thinned
- 1996 forest 1<sup>st</sup> thinned at 16 years old – now has got 3<sup>rd</sup> thinning of Sitka and 2<sup>nd</sup> thinning of Norway
- Looking forward to clearfelling this forest over next 5-10 years – depending on prices

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## Is thinning worth the bother?

- Forward planning critical
- Thin early
- Build your knowledge and skills eg KTG, field days
- Choose your harvesting contractor carefully
- Professional support and supervision



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## Looking after your investment

- Buy good land
- Get forest off to the best start
- Walk the forest regularly
- Thin early
- Sell standing or roadside?
- Carefully choose a buyer
- Seek professional advice



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## Final thoughts..

- Forestry has been extremely rewarding
- Focus on the clearfell income - not the premium
- Great tax advantages -transferring wealth to the next generation
- Was straightforward with expert support from the Department and Teagasc - *But now.. time and cost challenges for owners*

***Keep yourself informed and involved!***

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Thank you

