

Outdoor Cut Foliage

Andy Whelton
Teagasc Horticultural Development Department

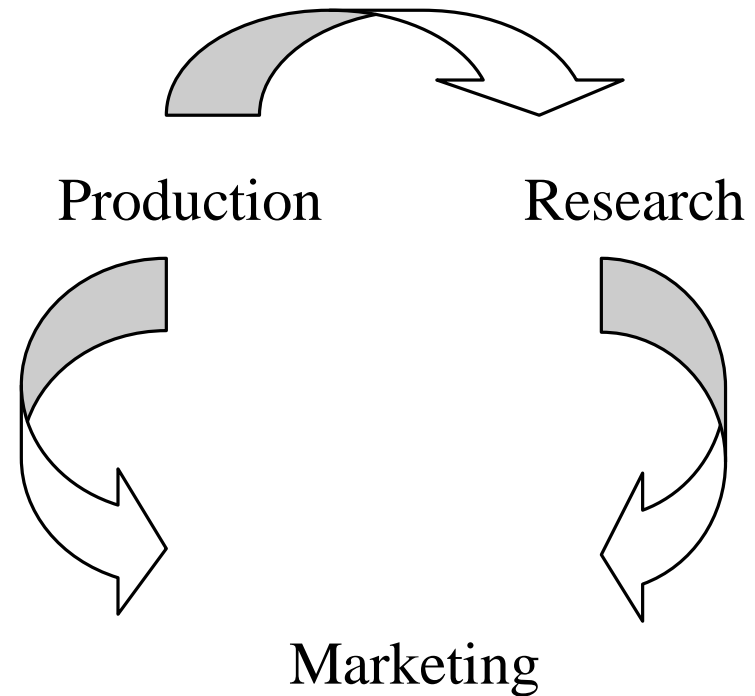
20 Sept 2012

Cut Foliage

- Production
 - Area
 - Growing cut foliage
 - What's in it?
 - Issues
- Research & Development
 - Programmes & Objectives

Why Ireland and Foliage?

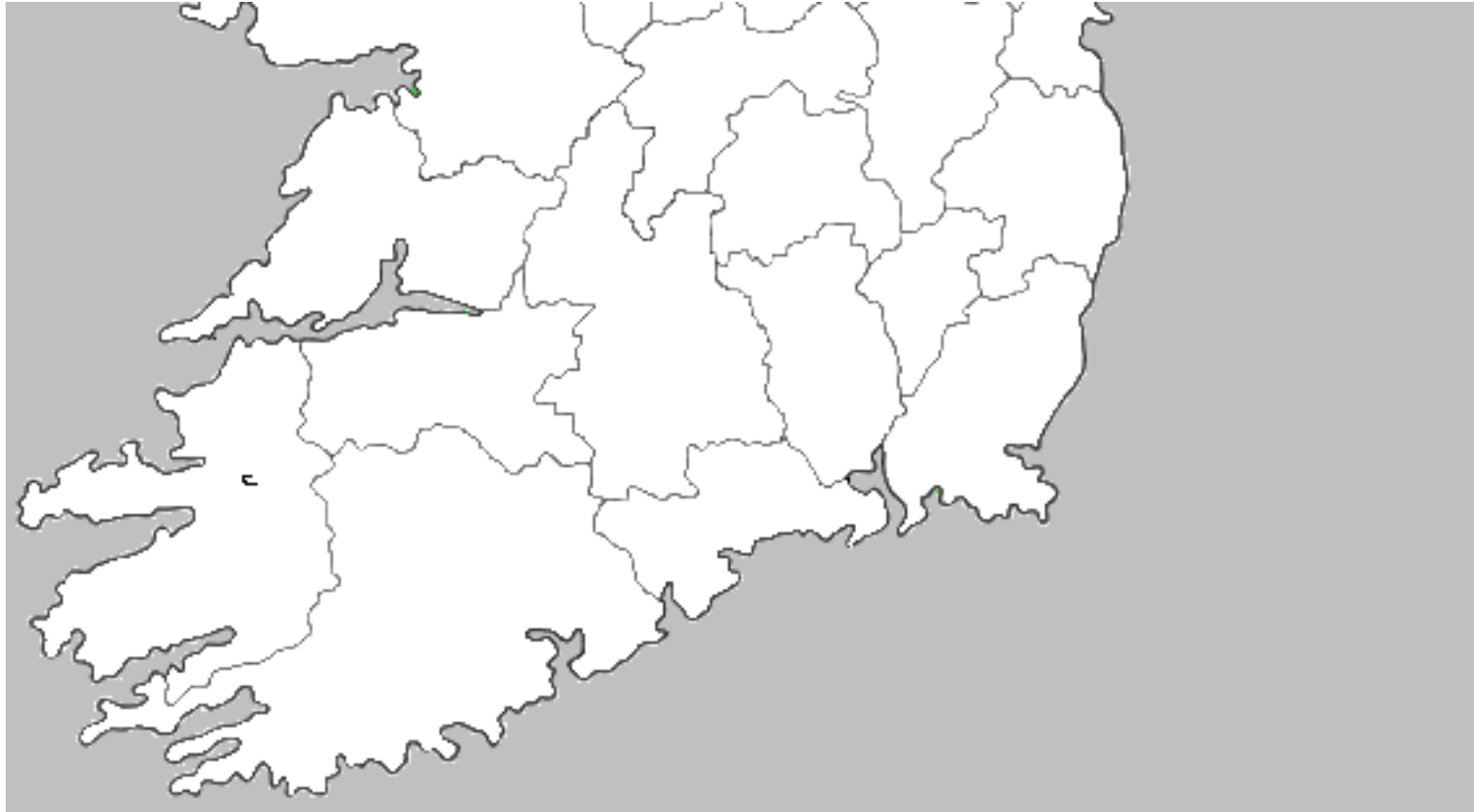
- **Our climate is ideal**
- **Structured marketing organisation – FPL Kerry**
 - market led



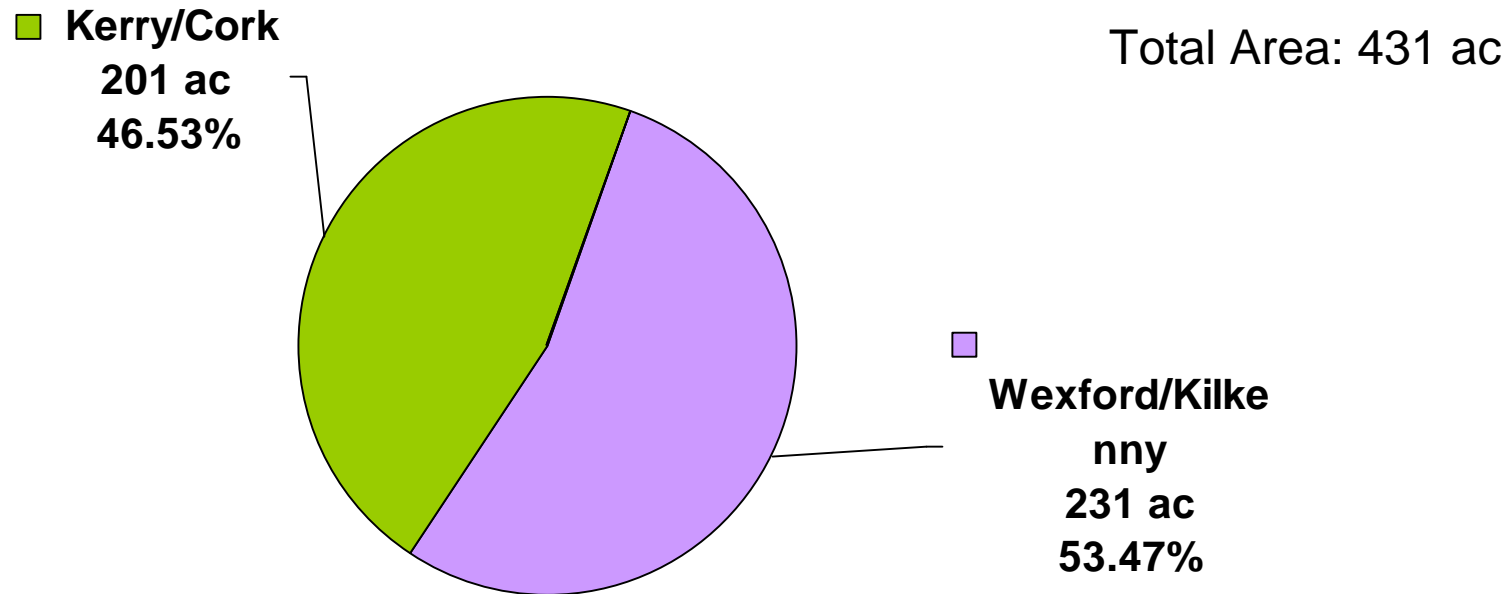
Cut Foliage Industry

- 432 aces(175 Ha)
- 20 Growers - Average 21ac (largest >100 ac)
- Value - €3.5m
- 10 million stems (wild & cultivated)
- 30 FT 100 PT
- Development Plan & Harvest 2020 targets
 - 1000 ac (400 ha)
 - €30m exports

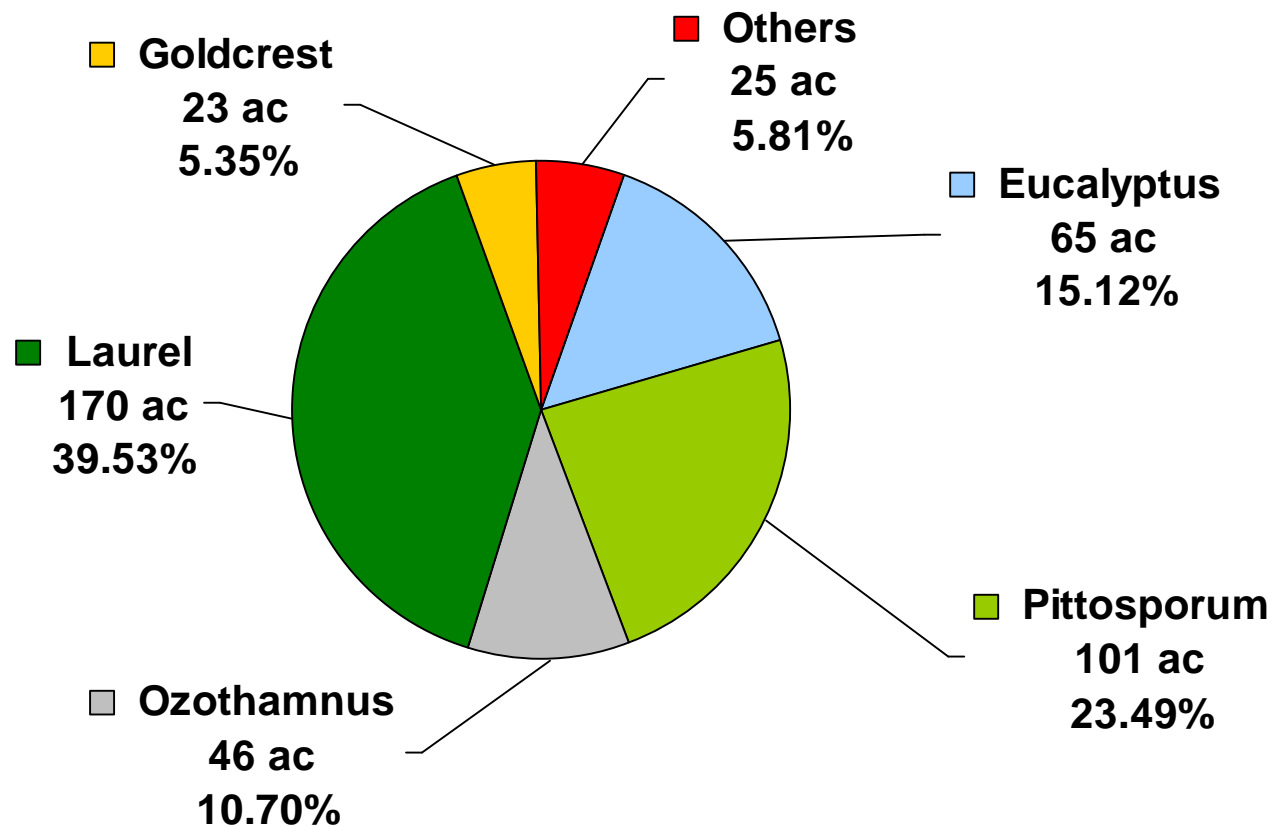
Irish Production



Cut Foliage Acreage



Cut Foliage Area by Species



Species Requirements

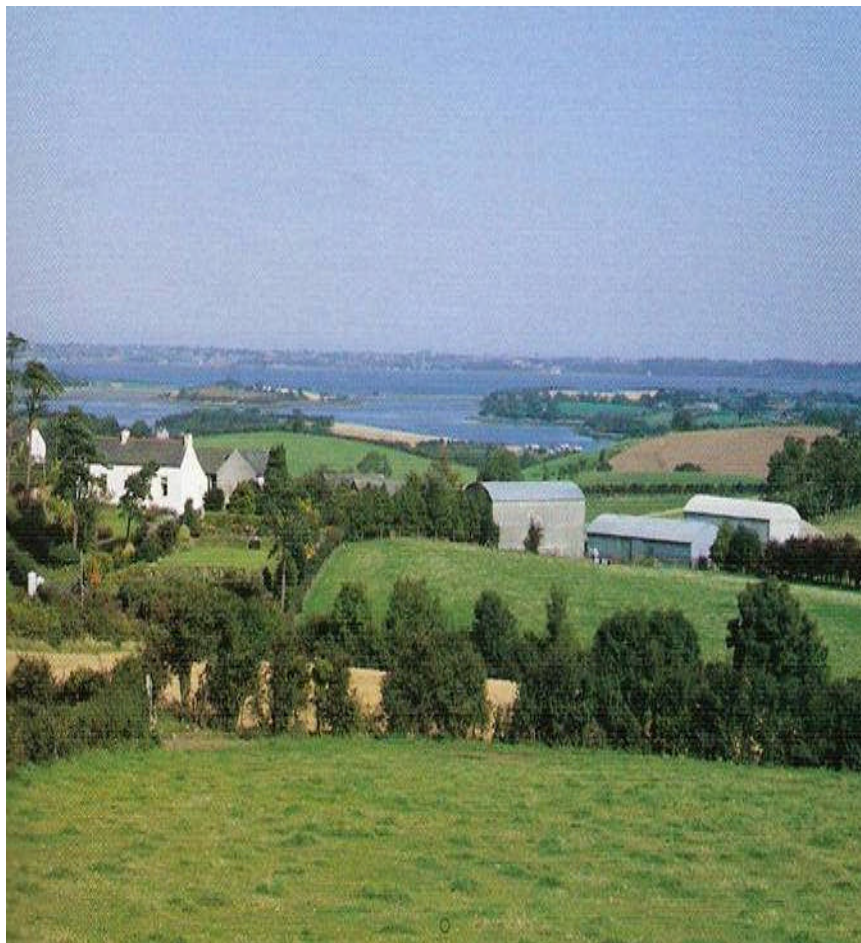
- Weather tolerant
- Capable of rapid regeneration after cutting
- Low susceptibility to pests & diseases
- Commercially viable yield (high volume stem business – not < 25,000 stems/ac)

Grower Requirements

Perennial crops – 10-15 years+

- Site selection, ground preparation - vital to success
- Species selection to match site & market requirement
- Management capability
 - Husbandry (weed, pest & disease control)
- Grower Profile ?

Site & Soil



- **Soil – mineral Ph 5-7**
- **Water retentive**
- **Slope – less than 30%**
- **Relatively frost free**
- **Shelter**
- **Accessible**
- **Protection from Rabbits**

Frost Damage 2010

Inland sites – increased frost risk with some species



Site preparation



Burn off
Plough
overall or
Single furrow



Power harrow
Press



Growing Cut Foliage



- Planting - Spring
- 800 - 1200 trees per acre
- Spacing - 7' by 7'
- Weed Control
- Nutrition
- Pruning - Spring
- Pests & Diseases

Residual Weed Control



Species eg *Eucalyptus*
800 trees/ac

Costs & Returns

Establishment cost	Yr 1	€1600	}	Total
	Yr 2 & 3	€600		

Full economic yield from year 4 to 15+

	<u>Low</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>High</u>
Yield per acre	25,000	40,000	60,000 +
Income – 2ct per stem	€500	€800	€1200
Growing costs €300/ac			
Nett return/ac	€200	€500	€900

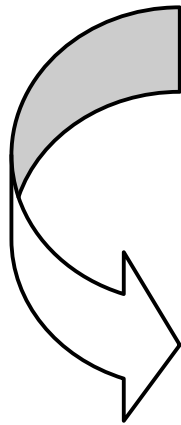
Assumption - Harvest & transport to processing unit – 4 ct per stem

+ Single Payment

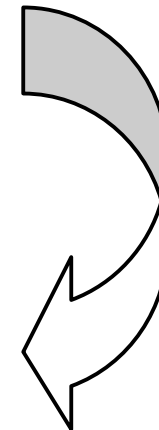


**Species Screening
Agronomy trials**

**Species/Quality Improvement
Propagation Technology**



**Research &
Development**



Production Blueprints

→ Industry expansion

Agronomy Trials



- Improving quality & yield of key foliages
 - production systems
 - shape, stem length, structure
 - pruning, nutrition
 - selection of best clones
 - Propagation