Outdoor Cut Foliage

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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

- Kerry/Cork
  - 201 ac
  - 46.53%

- Wexford/Kilkeenny
  - 231 ac
  - 53.47%

Total Area: 431 ac
Cut Foliage Area by Species

- **Goldcrest**: 23 ac (5.35%)
- **Laurel**: 170 ac (39.53%)
- **Ozothamnus**: 46 ac (10.70%)
- **Eucalyptus**: 65 ac (15.12%)
- **Pittosporum**: 101 ac (23.49%)
- **Others**: 25 ac (5.81%)
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

Year 2

Year 4
### Costs & Returns

**Species eg Eucalyptus**
800 trees/ac

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Establishment cost Yr 1</th>
<th>€1600</th>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>€2200</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yr 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>€600</td>
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Full economic yield from year 4 to 15+

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<tr>
<th>Yield per acre</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>High</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>60,000 +</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income – 2ct per stem</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>High</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>€500</td>
<td>€800</td>
<td>€1200</td>
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<tr>
<th>Growing costs</th>
<th>€300/ac</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nett return/ac</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>High</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>€200</td>
<td>€500</td>
<td>€900</td>
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Assumption - Harvest & transport to processing unit – 4 ct per stem

+ Single Payment

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The Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority
Species Screening
Agronomy trials

Species/Quality Improvement
Propagation Technology

Research &
Development

Production Blueprints
→ Industry expansion

The Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority
Agronomy Trials

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