



Woodland Improvement Scheme: Thinning and Tending

Forestry Programme 2014 - 2020

Introduction

This scheme provides financial support to forest holders towards the cost of woodland improvement works associated with tending and thinning of broadleaf forests planted post 1980 under grant aided afforestation schemes. The scheme facilitates the improvement of broadleaved woodlands.

Thinning and Tending operations can provide a range of functions which include the promotion of healthy tree growth, landscape improvement, biodiversity enhancement and water protection. Tending and thinning also benefits biodiversity by increasing light levels on the forest floor which contributes to the development of shrub and ground flora.

Funding may also be provided on application for brashing operations to improve access for manual application of fertiliser where aerial fertilisation is not possible. Foliar analysis may be required to establish nutrient status and determine the type and rate of fertiliser applicable. Application of fertiliser must be carried out as a result of the created access to be eligible for payment and cannot exceed the rate in table below.

The Woodland Improvement Scheme is 100% funded by the exchequer and is approved by the EU as part of the Forestry Programme 2014 - 2020.



Scheme Outline

The objective of the scheme is to:

- Fell trees to release potential final crop trees as per the Forest Service thinning and tending schedules;
- Remove malformed trees;
- Carry out thinning or re-spacing to promote growth;
- Manage and re-space natural regeneration;
- Improve access for manual fertilisation (cost based grant)

Grant Rates

A fixed grant per hectare will be available under the Scheme as stated in the table below.

	Fixed Grant €/ha (per treated hectare)
Thinning and Tending	750

Application procedure

Applications for approval must be made through a Registered Forester to the Approvals Section of the Department's Forest Service in Johnstown Castle, Co Wexford.

Please note: work may only commence following written approval and a valid felling licence from the Forest Service.

Further Information:

Visit www.teagasc.ie/forestry for contact details of your local Teagasc Forestry Adviser as well as up-to-date and detailed information on forestry grant schemes, contact details for Registered Foresters, and much more. See also www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service

