

FORESTRY

June 2024

Forestry Open Day



Come to the Forestry Open Day and learn about the latest developments in forest research.

EDITED BY
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OFFICER



A NEWLY
PLANTED TREE
NEEDS

1m²

weed free around
it, in order to
establish well.

Teagasc Forestry Development Department invites you to a
Forestry Open Day
Leading the way in research, advisory and education
July 4, 2024
Teagasc, Oak Park, Carlow R93 XE12

Arrive any time between 11.00am and 1.00pm (the day will
run from 11.00am-4.00pm).

TEAGASC ADVISORY NEWSLETTER

FORESTRY

This outdoor event offers an opportunity to appreciate the vital role that forest research plays in addressing the various challenges and opportunities in forestry and forest management in Ireland. Attendees will be guided through many collaborative forestry research themes in the beautiful woodlands of the Teagasc Oak Park Research Centre. Forestry advisory staff will outline the many opportunities available for new planting, along with supports for existing forests through the Forestry Programme. Advisors will also outline how working closely with forestry researchers results in valuable knowledge transfer opportunities for forest owners.

Meet our forestry researchers as they explain the latest forest science through the following ongoing research project areas:

- Forest carbon research:
 - studying forest carbon dynamics – impacts of species and management practices; and,
 - developing methods for estimating forest carbon across diverse conditions.
- Marteloscope: interactive forest training plots.
- ContinuFor: continuous cover forestry (CCF).
- Broadleaf silviculture: remedial silviculture; coppicing; and, mixtures.
- Agroforestry:
 - attitudes, perceptions, and barriers to uptake of agroforestry; and,
 - agroforestry designs.



One important Teagasc research area is breeding for ash dieback disease tolerance.

- Conifer research.
- FitForests: response of tree species to climate change.
- ADAPTForRes: climate change adaptation, mitigation and protection in Irish forests.
- Tree improvement research:
 - BroadGen: genetic diversity of four key forestry species;
 - ElmAsh: genetic conservation of elms and ash in Ireland;
 - ExAl: explore alder tree microbiome for enhancing resilience; and,
 - birch and alder improvement.
- Breeding for ash dieback disease tolerance in Ireland.

There is no need to register for this free event. We encourage you to arrive between 11.00am and 1.00pm, and the day runs until 4.00pm.

For further details, contact Frances McHugh at frances.mchugh@teagasc.ie, scan the QR code, or see www.teagasc.ie/forestryopenday.



Teagasc at the Energy and Farm Diversification Show

This year's Show will take place on Thursday, July 18, at Gurteen College in Co. Tipperary. This one-day event incorporates a large trade showcase, outdoor practical demonstrations, networking opportunities with industry experts, and an extensive talks programme. Teagasc Forestry Development Department will be present in the trade area. This year there will be a strong focus on diversification on the farm, with a whole set



See practical demonstrations at the Energy and Farm Diversification Show.

of talks designated to the topic. A forestry-based panel discussion is planned for the day, which will take a broad look at the forest sector, from the viewpoints of forest owners, timber processors and foresters.

Looking after newly planted trees

Whether part of a forestry scheme or an agricultural environmental scheme, many landowners planted trees on their farm this winter or plan to later this year. Once the site is chosen, tree species decided and the trees are in the ground, it's sometimes easy to feel like the job is done. However, ensuring that these small trees grow successfully requires some timely care and attention. The main threats to your trees are:

- competition from vegetation;
- damage from animals; and,
- drought (particularly when large trees are planted).

Vegetation

Grass and weeds compete very aggressively with young trees for light, water and nutrients. Well-weeded trees will grow

much more quickly. Trees grow better in fertile areas but so will grass and weeds. Trees will start to grow in earnest by April and will demand access to nutrients and water throughout the summer. There are several ways to address this:

- Organic mulches such as bark or wood chips, straw, and spent compost will control grass and weeds while enriching the soil with nutrients. This is a very viable option where the number of trees planted is small but it will need to be topped up.
- Mulch mats are also an option, e.g., a square metre of old carpet will keep down weeds. Make sure moisture can still get to your young tree. These mats can be removed when no longer needed.

- Regular trampling of grass and weeds around young trees can also be an effective vegetation suppression method. This will need to be carried out three or four times over the growing season. Avoid cutting or strimming grass and weeds because cut weeds require more nutrients and water to regrow, placing trees under additional stress.
- Grass and weeds can also be controlled efficiently with herbicides. There are many different herbicides available on the market and they should only be used where there are no other practical options. Consider their use carefully as herbicides are expensive and may have detrimental environmental effects.

Damage from animals

Bark is the tree's lifeline and so damage to a tree's bark impedes the flow of water and nutrients while allowing diseases in. If bark is damaged the whole way round the base of the tree, the tree will die. That is why it is so important to avoid browsing damage to trees by cattle, sheep, horses, goats, deer, hares, rabbits or voles. Specific fences are needed to keep out specific animals. For example, four strands of barbed wire will keep cattle away, whereas in order to keep trees safe from rabbits and hares, rabbit wire is required and must be dug in and bent outwards to



Tree guards provide important protection for young trees.

prevent burrowing underneath. Suitable tree guards or spirals can provide sufficient protection when tree numbers are low.

Drought

It is hard to imagine trees suffering from drought after a prolonged period of wet weather but trees suffer from drought when:

- large trees are planted and take time to settle into the ground;
- vegetation is allowed to compete with trees for water; or,
- there is insufficient soil to hold water during dry periods.

It is important to keep an eye on your newly planted trees. Go for regular walks among the trees you have planted. Once they are past the initial threats, they provide us with endless benefits.