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# Forestry and Wood Update

## Forest Sector Development/COFORD Division

### Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

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## Information and support services

### Web based felling decision tool - Conifers

A new web based felling decision tool for conifers was recently launched by Minister Doyle on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2017. This tool is now available on the DAFM website at [www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/forests-service-general-information/forests-statistics-and-mapping/felling-decision-tool](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/forests-service-general-information/forests-statistics-and-mapping/felling-decision-tool)

The purpose of the tool is to provide owners with information on estimated timber revenues and crop parameters (volumes, top height, mean tree size) that will assist them in deciding when to clearfell their crops and show the implications of felling earlier or later than the financial rotation age. The tool is designed for ease of use by foresters and non-foresters and requires only basic information on species, yield class, rotation type and thinning regime to be inputted by the user.

The tool provides support for a range of conifer species, which include: Sitka spruce, Norway spruce, European larch, Japanese larch, Douglas fir, lodgepole pine (north and south coastal) and Scots pine.

An extensive help menu accompanies the tool and further background is outlined in a recently published Coford Connect note available on the COFORD [website](#).

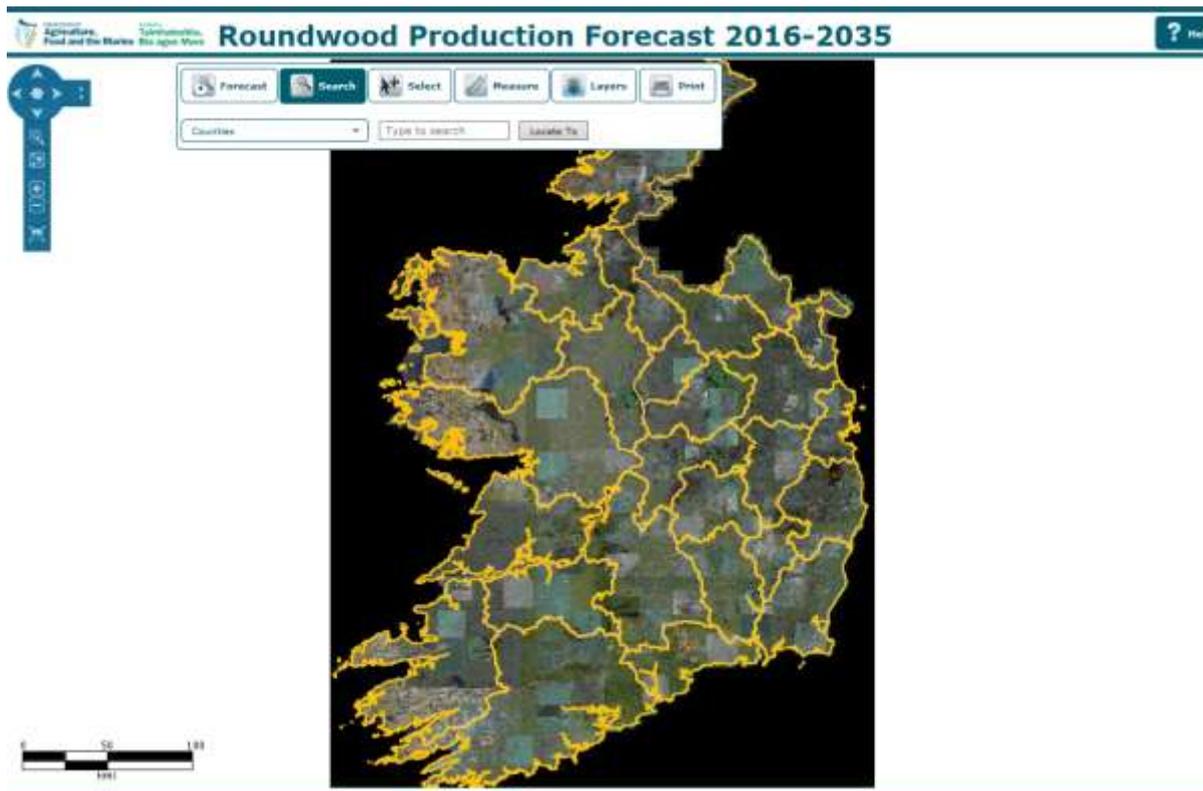
A screenshot of the 'Forest Service Felling Decision Tool' web interface. The page has a white background with a light blue header bar containing a 'Help' button and the title 'Forest Service Felling Decision Tool'. Below the header, there are several dropdown menus for inputting data: 'Species' (set to 'Sitka spruce'), 'Yield Class' (set to '22'), 'Rotation Type' (set to 'Financial'), 'Management Prescription' (set to '3 Thin'), 'Timber Prices' (set to '5 Year'), and 'Discount Rate' (set to '4%'). Each dropdown menu has a small blue circle with a white question mark to its right. At the bottom of the form, there are three buttons: a green 'Submit' button, a red 'Clear Inputs' button, and a blue 'Print' button. To the right of the 'Print' button are two orange buttons: 'Spreadsheets' with a download icon and 'PDF' with a download icon.

## Roundwood production forecast 2016-2035 web enabled mapping service

The forest processing and emerging wood energy sectors require forecast volumes at a national, regional and catchment levels to underpin their planning and investment decisions. Roundwood forecasts are produced approximately every five years by COFORD (e.g. 2001, 2009, 2011) and have provided information at national, regional and pre-defined catchments for a number of locations.

The production forecast for the period 2016-2035 is now available for the Republic of Ireland in the form of a geospatial database for private and Coillte owned forest areas. The volume forecast for all forest properties in the Republic of Ireland is captured in a spatial and attribute database as volume assortments for different species groups (spruce, pine, other conifer, broadleaf) as size categories (7-13cm, 14-19cm and 20cm +) in addition to a forecast of a wood energy biomass volume assortment.

The Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine has developed a web-enabled mapping service for publishing the national roundwood forecast to external stakeholders and to staff within the Department. The objective of this web mapping system is to enable users to generate bespoke roundwood timber harvest forecast information based on selected map location(s).



This application is hosted on the Forest Service website at [www.agriculture.gov.ie/roundwoodproductionforecastsystem](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/roundwoodproductionforecastsystem) and contains a comprehensive help tool, which is now accompanied with a video presentation to guide users on how to get the most out of the application.

## Renewable Heat Incentive - Design Options and Implementation Consultation

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment are inviting submissions from interested parties on the design options and implementation of a Renewable Heat Incentive in Ireland.

Under the 2009 Renewable Energy Directive, Ireland is committed to ensure that by 2020, 12% of our heating demand will come from renewable energy sources. Cleaner heat is part of Ireland's renewable energy policy objective and the introduction of a Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) for Ireland is a commitment in White Paper on Energy and the Programme for Government. This will be the primary support mechanism in the heating sector designed to meet Ireland's renewable energy obligations.

Written submissions to this public consultation can be made from 26 January 2017 to 3 March 2017. This consultation will conclude at 17:00pm on Friday 3 March 2017. Submissions received after the closing date will not be considered.

Submissions can be made:

1. By email to the following email address only: [rhi@dccae.gov.ie](mailto:rhi@dccae.gov.ie) Email submissions must include in the subject heading "*RHI consultation and (name of respondent)*"

Or

2. Writing to the following address: Renewable Heat Incentive consultation , Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment 29 – 31 Adelaide Road, Dublin,D02 X285.

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# Events

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## International Summer School on Forest Planning and Management: Training in New Tools and Techniques

This international summer school organised by EFIATLANTIC and hosted by Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) will be held in Waterford, Ireland from 19 – 23rd June 2017. The summer school forms part of the EFIATLANTIC Capacity Building Programme.

The focus of the summer school will be on providing background information, demonstrations and training in the use of the latest tools and techniques for assisting modern forestry professionals. The overall aim is to provide the very latest information and training in the wide the range of systems already available or coming on-stream that can help in making informed forestry management decisions at the tree, stand and property level. The course will include field work training with the latest field tools and techniques for assessing tree size and form, timber quality, stand quality and site suitability, and systems for mapping stands and forest properties over large areas using drones, aircraft and satellites.

Hands-on laboratory sessions will follow to learn how these measurements can be used in conjunction with growth models, decision support systems on economics, risk and site quality, and information from National Forest Inventories and other publically available datasets. The workshop is primarily aimed at professional foresters, forest consultants, managers and owners, forestry policy makers, and postgraduate-level students. The Society of Irish Foresters will provide sponsorship to two early-career forest professionals attending the course. These will be chosen by the committee following registration. Accommodation will be on the campus of Waterford Institute of Technology and a coach service to and from Dublin Airport will be provided. [Go to the Summer School web page to download the full programme and to register.](#)

**First registration deadline: 15th March 2017 Registration fees will increase by 50 Euros after this date. Places are limited.**

## GROWFOR Workshop Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2017 10.00 AM - 4.00 PM

This is a full day workshop on using GROWFOR, the dynamic yield model computer interface. The workshop is led by Paddy Purser and Fionán Russell of Purser Tarleton Russell Ltd.

GROWFOR facilitates –

- timber volume assessment and production forecasting using user specific forest management plans.
- flexibility with regard to the timing and intensity of harvest operations across a range of conifer species and uses the users own forest inventory data as input. It produces product assortments at every stage of stand development and users can avail of a range of price / size data to value timber harvests.
- the calculation of Net present Value of crops.

The workshop involves a field session in a nearby forest in which participants gain a clear understanding of the necessary field data requirements of GROWFOR and a brief session on how these data are collected. Then participants are demonstrated the use of GROWFOR and complete a series of exercises using the package.

Participants are asked, where possible, to **bring their own laptop computers** in order that the package can be installed correctly and in order that they can familiarize themselves with it on their own machines.

**PAYMENT:** The cost of the workshop is €100 which includes a GROWFOR license, access to ongoing back-up support via email and any GROWFOR updates as they are developed. Payment is by cash or cheque on the day. Cheques should be made payable to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Lunch is not included.

Those wishing to attend should email Paddy Purser at [ptr@eircom.net](mailto:ptr@eircom.net) to book a place. Please note that places are limited. Paddy Purser will then liaise directly with participants in the run up to the event with regard the exact venue etc.

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# COFORD Publications

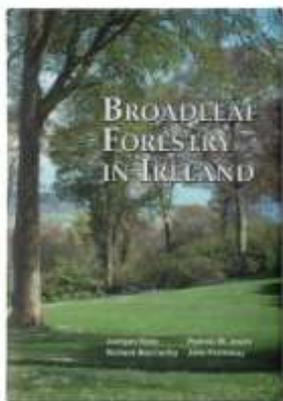
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## Ordering COFORD publications

Orders for **COFORD project reports and books** listed here and on [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie) should be sent to [orla.cashen@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:orla.cashen@agriculture.gov.ie). Payment procedures will be provided on receipt of orders.

## **Broadleaf Forestry in Ireland by Juergen Huss, Padraic Joyce, Richard MacCarthy and John Fennessy**

*Broadleaf Forestry in Ireland* provides owners and managers with a comprehensive suite of silvicultural and management guidelines to grow high quality trees to meet market demands. The material is presented in an accessible, easily-understood and well-illustrated format.



The authors begin with the policy background and the development of forests and forestry practice in Ireland. The book goes on to deal with soils and sites suitable for broadleaves, ecological and social values of broadleaf forests, as well as an extensive review of silvicultural strategies and procedures. Other aspects addressed include an examination of the future role of broadleaves, together with a detailed discourse on individual species. The book concludes with a brief

description of some lesser known broadleaves, which may increase in use in the light of climate change.

This well received COFORD publication costs €55 (including p&p), and can be ordered directly from [orla.cashen@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:orla.cashen@agriculture.gov.ie) 01 6072487 or 6072085.