

BEECHQUAL

Testing seed stands of Irish beech

PROJECT TEAM

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COMPLETION DATE

March 2009

OBJECTIVES

The objective of this project is to establish a series of beech trials comparing the performance and quality of selected home-grown stands with selected continental seed sources.

PROGRESS

Seed was sown in containers in a heated glasshouse in the spring of 2007. The material originated from 17 sources, including twelve home-collected, as well as one source each from the Netherlands, Denmark, Belgium, Germany and the UK.

The plants have grown well and are a sufficient size for field planting in the spring of 2008, one year earlier than planned. At the end of the first growing season the containers were moved outdoors to allow plants to harden off.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED

Two field trial sites have been identified, while two others are being sought. Layout plans for each of the trials will be made and plants will be lifted, shipped to the sites and planted in the spring of 2008.



One-year-old beech seedlings will be out-planted in a series of field trials in 2008.