

# OAKPROV

## Establishment of Irish oak seed stand and progeny trials

### PROJECT TEAM

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### COMPLETION DATE

June 2007

### OBJECTIVES

The objective of this project is to establish a series of field trials to test both the quality of Irish oak seed stands as well as the offspring of some of the phenotypically selected plus trees (referred to as progeny tests) on a range of sites across the country. The results will identify the best seed stands for the production of home-collected seed as well as the best individuals for use in further breeding work. Their performance will also be compared with provenances from other parts of Europe and the UK and these overseas lots will be used as controls.

### PROGRESS

Three field trials were established in spring 2006 at the Manch Estate (Co Cork), the Tullynally estate (Co Westmeath) and None-so-Hardy Nurseries (Co Wicklow). Survival was good. Height was assessed at the time of planting and at the end of the first growing season in each trial. Early results suggest that the progeny test material grew best but they had the added benefit that they were planted with the protection of tree guards. The None-so-Hardy site was the best overall, probably because it was kept completely weed free. Imported bare-root plants grew least; the tallest (90 cm +) German sources were the poorest performers, with many plants having to be replaced. Damage and losses due to hares, competing vegetation and herbicides occurred in 2007.

### ACTIVITIES PLANNED

This project covered the establishment phase of these trials and is now complete. A project proposal to continue the maintenance work on these trials is in preparation.



Oak seedlings in the nursery prior to being planted out in the field trials.