

# SEEDSTANDS

## The national catalogue of seeds

### PROJECT TEAM

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### COMPLETION DATE

The national and EU seed stand listings are reviewed and updated at the end of each calendar year.

### OBJECTIVE

- To provide adequate forest reproductive material for the national forestry programme based on the best adapted home sources.

### PROGRESS

During 2007 new seed stands for the main commercial species were registered and work also continued on registering stands of species for the Native Woodland Scheme. Spanish chestnut was included for the first time in 2006 (see BIHIP) and a further stand of Spanish chestnut was added in 2007.

A significant area of broadleaved seed orchard has been established since 2003. This includes both clonal and seedling selected material and is categorised under the EU Forest Reproductive Material Directive as 'qualified'. Seed production commenced in both alder and birch seed orchards, with small commercial quantities collected. These orchards have been included in the current national list.

Since the 1970s an active Sitka spruce breeding programme has been ongoing and from an original collection of over 550 plus trees, 86 have been proven in field trials to have superior growth and quality characteristics. The parents of this material are retained at Kilmacurra and are now classified as 'tested' material in this year's National Catalogue. For the purpose of

commercial production of this improved Sitka spruce a number of hedge orchards have also been established at Coillte nurseries at Aughrim and Camolin and have been added to the National Catalogue.

### ACTIVITIES PLANNED

Broadleaved seed production was prolific in 2007 and oak seed requirements were fully satisfied by home-collected sources for the first time in the recent past. In order to further develop the full potential from Irish-sourced forest reproductive material from the seed stand resource it is proposed to establish a series of Pilot Management Plots in selected seed stands over the next three years.

### OUTPUTS

The 2007 national and EU listings were completed (the current area of seed stands is shown in Table 1).

Cahalane, G., Doody, P., Douglas, G., Fennessy, J., O'Reilly, C. and Pfeifer, A. 2007. *Sustaining and developing Ireland's forest genetic resources - an outline strategy*. COFORD, Dublin.

Table 1: Area of seed stands as of 31 December 2007.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	AREA (HA)
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	7.0
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Common alder	110.0
<i>Betula pubescens</i>	Common birch	26.0
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Spanish chestnut	8.6
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	80.3
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	155.8
<i>Quercus petraea</i>	Sessile oak	1381.3
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate oak	737.9
<i>Larix decidua</i>	European larch	7.9
<i>Larix x eurolepis</i>	Hybrid larch	2.9
<i>Larix kaempferi</i>	Japanese larch	48.6
<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway spruce	439.4
<i>Picea sitchensis</i>	Sitka spruce	633.6
<i>Pinus contorta</i>	Lodgepole pine	13.0
<i>P. nigra var. maritima</i>	Corsican pine	63.1
<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Monterey pine	21.7
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots pine	131.2
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas fir	123.3
<i>Abies procera</i>	Noble fir	59.9
<i>Thuja plicata</i>	Western red cedar	8.9
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew	33.1
Mixed species		36.0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>4129.5</b>