

SEEDSTANDS

The national catalogue of seed stands

PROJECT TEAM

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COMPLETION DATE: The national and EU seed stand listings are reviewed and updated at the end of every calendar year. The next review will take place during 2009 and an updated list will be published at the end of December 2009.

BACKGROUND

On becoming a member of the European Union in 1973, Ireland was obliged to comply with a number of directives on the marketing of forest reproductive material. These directives were updated in 1999 with new regulations coming

into force across all EU states from 1 January 2003. In compliance with the regulation, the Irish State is required to *draw up a national register of the basic material of the various species approved on its territory*. This is the responsibility of the regulatory authority, the Forest Service, who, with COFORD, carries out the annual update of the national catalogue of seed stands and fulfils an important role in the identification, categorisation, management and evaluation of progeny of seed stands selected under national and European regulation.

OBJECTIVE

To comply with the EU Directive on the marketing of forest reproductive material as well as to satisfy the national forest reproductive material (FRM) requirements, where possible, from best adapted most productive and most suitable forest reproductive material from home sources. Where home sources are not available the national needs are satisfied from suitable overseas material.

PROGRESS

The main progress during 2008 was the identification of stands for the production of forest reproductive material to meet the demands of the main commercial conifer species, especially Sitka spruce, lodgepole pine and to a lesser extent Norway spruce. In recent years, supply of forest reproductive material for lodgepole pine was provided from seed orchards; however, these orchards are now in decline and production of seed in these orchards is low. As an interim measure and until new orchards are established, suitable stands of known origin will be selected and used as seed sources for lodgepole pine.

A significant area of broadleaved seed orchards has been established since 2000. These include ash, alder, birch, oak and sycamore of both clonal and seedling selected material. Part of this work is in co-operation with the British and Irish Hardwoods Improvement Programme (BIHIP). It should be noted that 2008 was a particularly bad year for tree seed production in Ireland especially in most of the broadleaved species apart from ash, birch and alder.

An active Sitka spruce breeding programme has been ongoing since the 1970s and from an original selection of over 550 plus trees, 86 have been proven in field trials to have superior growth and quality characteristics. The parents of this material, retained at Kilmacurra, are the basis for selected



High quality beech seed stand in the Forêt de Soigne, Belgium, suitable for supplying reproductive material for Ireland.

Sitka spruce now available and are classified as 'tested' material. Over the last few years a number of hedge orchards have been established in Aughrim nursery for the purpose of commercial production of this improved material and these were added to the 2007 list. A further new hedge orchard was added to the list in 2008.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED

Continue review and updating of the national catalogue in line with current demands and related requirements.

OUTPUTS

Completed the 2008 national and EU listing. The current area of seed stands is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Current area of seed stands as at 31 December 2008.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	AREA (ha)
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	7.0
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Common alder	113.3
<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>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	Lawson cypress	3.3
<i>Larix decidua</i>	European larch	19.7
<i>Larix x eurolepis</i>	Hybrid larch	2.9
<i>Larix kaempferi</i>	Japanese larch	50.1
<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway spruce	379.7
<i>Picea sitchensis</i>	Sitka spruce	603.2
<i>Pinus contorta</i>	Lodgepole pine (North coastal)	13.0
<i>Pinus contorta</i>	Lodgepole pine (South coastal)	112.0
<i>P. nigra var. maritima</i>	Corsican pine	63.1
<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Monterey pine	21.7
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots pine	159.6
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas fir	123.3
<i>Abies procera</i>	Noble fir	57.4
<i>Thuja plicata</i>	Western red cedar	8.9
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew	33.1
	Mixed species	36.0
TOTAL		4129.5