



**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Deer tree shelters and deer/hare fencing scheme



January 2019

1 Grant aid for installation of Deer Tree Shelters (DTS)

New plantations (Pre Planting)

- 1.1. Funding for DTS, will be available to private land-holders or companies. Funding is capped at €600/ha for all scenarios.
- 1.2. The option to use DTS is voluntary but can be used on all suitable sites where there is a risk of deer damage to trees.
- 1.3. Where the risk of deer damage is low planting without shelters should be considered the first option.
- 1.4. DTS can be used in the additional broadleaf (ADB) parts of conifer plots and in standalone diverse conifer or broadleaf plots¹.
- 1.5. The minimum stocking where trees are in DTS is 625 trees / hectare whether this is in ADB or in diverse conifer or broadleaf plots. This is achieved at an average stocking of 4 metres X 4 metres.
- 1.6. Apart from the reduced stocking level all other requirements of the plantations remain the same at Form 2 and Form 3
- 1.7. The maximum area for receipt of additional DTS grant is 2 hectares for GPC 4² – 10. This limit does not apply for broadleaves planted in ADBs.
- 1.8. On-going maintenance of tree shelters will be required to ensure stakes and shelters are secure, upright and adequate weed control is carried out until trees are established. Shelters will breakdown over time and it will be necessary to remove larger pieces of debris to prevent unsightly litter issues post-establishment.
- 1.9. Location maps for tree shelters should use “X’s” to give the general location of the shelters within each relevant plot.
- 1.10. The Form 1 will include provision to apply for approval for DTS. Form 2 will allow for the total area under tree shelters to be recorded against each GPC.

Existing plantations

- 1.11. Support and standards for DTS in existing plantations are the same as for new plantations (see above).
- 1.12. Where deer are present in an area and have caused some tree damage in the plantation and all other issues are deemed up to Form 3 standard, Form 3 payment can be made where 60% or more of the trees evenly dispersed over the site are free growing and free from deer damage.

¹ GPC 8 is birch only

² Only where Scots pine and Douglas fir are planted

- 1.13. Damage levels must be greater than 40% in order to receive support for DTS in existing plantations (See Appendix 1 for measuring deer damage).

2 Grant aid for Deer Fencing post Form 2

- 2.1. Existing provisions available at Form 1 for deer fencing will now apply for GPC 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 forests prior to 2nd instalment payment where there is evidence of deer damage greater than 30%. To achieve adequate stocking for 2nd Instalment purposes the use of Deer Tree Shelters (DTS) should be considered an option before deciding on the installation of deer fencing. DTS can be installed at a spacing of 4 metres X 4 metres to achieve full stocking. They will have to be free growing at 2nd instalment stage.
- 2.1. Deer fencing provision €16.25/m, for IS436 @ 140m/ha = €2,275/ha
- 2.2. Upgrade deer fencing rates €8/m, for IS436 @ 140m/ha = €1,120/ ha
- 2.3. The following criteria applies to deer fencing;
 - i. In order to be eligible for funding broadleaved sites must have greater than 40% deer damage on the areas proposed for enclosure by deer fencing.
 - ii. All fencing material must be in accordance with fencing specifications as set out in the Forestry Standards Manual.
 - iii. Fencing upgrades and new fencing must be clearly shown on a fencing map and must show the total length in metres.
- 2.4 Deer fencing specifications are set out in Table 12.1 of the [Forest Standards Manual](#). Alternative construction types for deer fencing will be considered on a case by case basis, e.g. 'A' frame deer fencing.

3. Upgrade to hare fencing post Form 2

- 3.1. A contribution of €2.5/m up to a maximum of 140m per ha (€350/ha) is available for forests that have been subject to hare damage after Form 2 payment and up to approval for Form 3 payment.
- 3.2. Eligible plantations must have 30% hare damage.

4. General Provisions

- 4.1. These terms and conditions scheme apply to plantations established prior to the date of this circular that have yet to receive their 2nd Instalment payment.
- 4.2. The terms and conditions of the Afforestation Grant and Premium Scheme and standards set out in the Department's Forestry Standards Manual apply to this supplementary support scheme.

- 4.3. Only applications for individual CN numbers will be accepted, that is, one form for one CN number.
- 4.4. Applications for tree shelter grants, support for deer fencing and hare upgrades for established plantations prior to 2nd Instalment payment, will be on first come, first served basis up to the budget ceiling. Once the ceiling is reached support for these elements is deemed closed for that year. Applicants that were unsuccessful for budgetary reasons may reapply the following year on condition that the Form 3 payment has not yet been made.
- 4.5. Payments in respect of tree shelters (after establishment), deer fencing and hare fencing upgrades will be made as an additional payment to the 1st and 2nd Instalment payment and will be paid on submission of Form 1SP and 2SP (Supplementary Payment).