

Broadleaf Forestry Research

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Context

- The national forest estate \approx 11% of land area.
- Industry main focus is on Sitka spruce
- $> \frac{1}{4}$ of forest area is broadleaf
- Broadleaf planting increased from mid 1990s, planted by private owners
- Broadleaf silviculture knowledge is limited

RMIS project

Group selection and underplanting of ash stands to mitigate ash dieback

- 2 sites (Co. Derry and Johnstown Castle)
- Fell small areas (0.025 – 0.45 ha)
- Replant with oak, birch and hazel
- Changing light conditions on tree growth

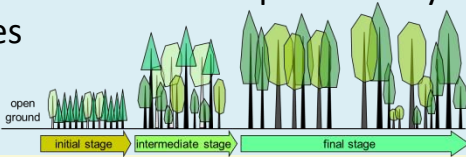


RMIS project – TransSSFor

Transformation of Sitka spruce stands to Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF)

With UCD and Coillte

- $> 50\%$ forest area is Sitka spruce
- Increasing demand for CCF information
- Continuation of a previous DAFM-funded project
- Study impact of three thinning treatments on transformation of stand structure and stand productivity at two sites



DAFM project – EARTH

Exploitation And Realisation of Thinnings from Hardwoods

With NUIG

- Quantify the resource
 - 1st and 2nd thinnings
- Physical and mechanical properties
- Drying schedules
- Durability of thinnings
- Potential end-uses
- Dissemination



RMIS project

Exploitation of the working properties and utilisation of small-diameter Irish-grown alder

With GMIT Letterfrack

- establish the characteristics, properties and utilisation potential of small-diameter Irish-grown alder
- explore opportunities to add-value

DAFM project – ShortFor

Short Rotation Forestry

With UCD, WIT, UL and TCD

- Spacing and species suitability
 - Close / wide planting density
 - Eucalyptus / Alder / Sitka spruce / Grand fir / Coast redwood
- Fuel properties characterisation
- Economic & environmental sustainability

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