

Summary of Reconstitution and Underplanting Scheme (Ash Dieback)

Plantation Categorisation & Management and Grant Scheme Options - Summary

| | Management and Grant Scheme Options | | |
|--|--|--|----------------|
| Category 1 Any grant aided ash plantation | ≤7m top height | | |
| | RUS Under-plant (all GPCs) | RUS Reconstitution (all GPCs) | WIS/CCF |
| | ✓ | ✓ | x |
| Category 2 Any grant aided ash plantation | >7m and ≤17m top height and ≤ 18cm dbh and less than 25 years old (i.e. must satisfy all three criteria) | | |
| | RUS Under-plant (all GPCs) | RUS Reconstitution (all GPCs) | WIS/CCF |
| 2a: Low level of stem infection infection < 3.99% | x | x | ✓ |
| 2b: Medium stem infection infection ≥ 4% and < 9.99% | ✓ | x | ✓ |
| 2c: High level stem infection infection ≥ 10% | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Category 3 Any grant aided ash plantation | >17m top height or >18cm dbh or >25 years old | | |
| | RUS Under-plant (all GPCs) | RUS Reconstitution (all GPCs) | WIS/CCF |
| | x | x | ✓ |

Categories:

- 1 Underplanting or Reconstitution
- 2
 - 2a WIS (Thinning) or CCF only
 - 2b Underplanting or WIS (Thinning) & CCF
 - 2c Underplanting or Reconstitution or WIS (Thinning) & CCF
- 3 WIS (Thinning) or CCF only

Reconstitution:

- Clear fell site - grant of €1000/ha
- No felling licence required
- All Grant Premium categories available, including Agroforestry*
- Premiums paid at new rate (2014 - 2020 scheme)
- Premium paid on balance of years left
- Deer fencing grant and repair of older fences grant available

Underplanting

- Remove 60% of crop - as lines or blocks - grant of €1000/ha
- Replant 50% of crop - 10% left unplanted as racks
- No felling licence required
- All Grant Premium categories available, including Agroforestry*
- Premiums paid at the same rate as for the original ash
- Premium paid on balance of years left
- Deer fencing grant and repair of older fences grant available

*BPS payments may end after 5 years of premiums payments

Scheme applies to Ash/Sycamore mixtures planted 50/50

Notes:

- No Felling licence required for RUS
- Felling licence required for WIS (Thinning) and CCF
- Operations will be screened for Appropriate Assessment
- Replanting is obligatory - Forest Service may recoup all premium payments if replanting is not carried out
- An owner can initially apply for WIS (Thinning) under category 2a and can subsequently apply for Underplanting or Reconstitution if the plantation falls under 2b or 2c
- If an owner wishes to avail of RUS, category 2 a registered forester must complete a damage level assessment
- Changing a broadleaf forest to a conifer forest may require planning permission from the local planning authority
- Changing a broadleaf forest to a conifer forest (10ha) require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be undertaken by the relevant local planning authority. In some cases an EIS/EIA and /or obtain planning permission may be required for smaller areas.

This is a difficult scheme to comprehend; the summary above is my interpretation. Please read the scheme conditions, which can be found at the links below.

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/grantandpremiumschemes/2015/1ReconstitutionUnderplantingSchemeJUNE2020090620.pdf>

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/grantandpremiumschemes/schemecirculars/2020/3RUSCircularJune2020090620.pdf>

Kevin O'Connell