
***Summary of approach and support schemes
available for ash plantations impacted by
Ash Dieback Disease***

June 2020

Steps required in order to avail of DAFM support schemes for plantations impacted by ash dieback disease

General Approach

- Forest Owner makes contact with a Registered Forester
- Registered Forester will categorise the site (Category 1, 2(a, b, c) or 3) - see table below.
- Registered Forester and Forest Owner will select the most appropriate silvicultural option and make the application for relevant scheme support.
- Eligible sites under this scheme will have access to Section 2 of the Deer Tree Shelters and Deer/Hare fencing scheme

Plantation Categorisation & Support Scheme Options

- If the ash plantation falls within Category 2, and the owner wishes to avail of the RUS scheme, the Registered Forester must complete a damage level assessment. This assessment must follow the Standard Operating Procedure “Assessing Stem Damage *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* Ash dieback”. (see Appendix 1 RUS scheme document & SOP).
- The damage level assessment is NOT required for DAFM Scheme support for Category 1 or Category 3 plantations or for Category 2a plantations WIS/CCF applications.
- DAFM no longer requires a laboratory positive from an ash plantation in order for the owner to gain access to DAFM support schemes.

Procedural Issues

- Applications for the RUS will not require a felling licence. Exemption from the requirement for a Felling licence can be considered under Section 19 Exempted Trees (1) c (i) (to control or prevent the spread of fire or a pest or disease) of the Forestry Act 2014.
- Applications for WIS and CCF schemes will require a felling licence.
- All applications will be subject to screening for Appropriate Assessment.

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 <3.99%	x	x	✓
2b: Medium stem infection ≥4% and <9.99%	✓	x	✓
2c: High level stem 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	✓
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