



16th February, 2021

Circular 03/2021

To all Registered Foresters

Re: Native Woodland Scheme and Planting Mixtures

The following change applies with immediate effect to both the Native Woodland Conservation Scheme and the Native Woodland Establishment Scheme (as represented by GPC 9 & 10), due to the limited availability of suitable planting material derived from suitable sources within Ireland. This Circular should be read in conjunction with Circular 05/2018 and Circular 02/2021 (the latter regarding oak).

The Native Woodland Scheme Framework released with Circular 05 / 2018 specified the required planting mixtures for each of the five scenarios under NWS. This Circular amends those planting mixtures for the remainder of the 2020/2021 planting season only. All other aspects of the NWS Framework remain unchanged.

Scenario	Planting mixture
Scenario 1: Podzols/Oak-Birch-Holly Woodland	Pedunculate oak (40%), Scots pine (40%) and downy birch (20%). Changes + or – 20% for each species will be accepted. Pedunculate oak to be planted in predominantly pure groups, with one-fifth of the required downy birch scattered intimately throughout. Scots pine planted in small pure groups, focusing on parts of the plot with free-draining soil (if present) and away from any watercourses adjoining or crossing the plot. The remainder of the downy birch to be planted in pure groups. Minor species required under this scenario (i.e. holly and rowan) to be planted during the maintenance period along the edge of the emerging woodland and / or alongside hedgerows. Any filling in required within oak must use sessile oak suitable for use under the NWS. Provenance Certs. will be required at Form 3 stage for these species.
Scenario 2: Brown podzolics/Oak-Birch-Holly with Hazel Woodland	Pedunculate oak (50%), hazel (15%), downy birch (20%) and Scots pine (15%). Changes + or – 20% for these species will be accepted. Pedunculate oak to be planted in predominantly pure groups, with one-fifth of the required hazel and downy birch scattered intimately throughout. Scots pine to be planted in small pure groups on free-draining areas of the plot, particularly on slopes. The remainder of the downy birch and hazel to be planted in pure groups. Minor species required under this scenario (i.e. at least two of the following: hawthorn, holly, rowan, crab apple) to be planted during the maintenance period along the edge of the emerging woodland and / or alongside hedgerows. Any filling in required within oak must use sessile oak suitable for use under the NWS. Provenance Certs. will be required at Form 3 stage for these species.



<p>Scenario 3: Brown earths/Oak-Ash-Hazel Woodland</p>	<p>Pedunculate oak (35%), downy birch (25%), hazel (25%), Scots pine (10%) and hawthorn (5%). Changes + or – 20% for these species will be accepted.</p> <p>Pedunculate oak to be planted in predominantly pure groups, with one-fifth of the required downy birch and hazel scattered intimately throughout. Scots pine to be planted in small pure groups on free-draining areas of the plot, particularly on slopes. The remainder of the downy birch and hazel to be planted in pure groups. Hawthorn to be planted strategically along boundaries/hedges and around oak groups. Minor species required under this scenario (i.e. at least three of the following: holly, spindle, rowan, crab apple and on wetter areas of the plot, alder) to be planted during the maintenance period along the edge of the emerging woodland and / or alongside hedgerows. Provenance Certs. will be required at Form 3 stage for these species.</p>
<p>Scenario 4: Gleys/Alder-Oak-Ash Woodland</p>	<p>Alder (50%), downy birch (20%), grey willow (10%) and pedunculate oak (10%). Changes + or – 20% for these species will be accepted. Alder, grey willow and downy birch to be planted in pure groups (30-40 trees), with groups interspersed alternately. Pedunculate oak on drier areas. Minor species required under this scenario (i.e. at least two of the following: hawthorn, holly, hazel, guilder rose) to be planted during the maintenance period along the edge of the emerging woodland and / or alongside hedgerows. Provenance Certs. will be required at Form 3 stage for these species.</p>
<p>Scenario 5A: Modified & improved, infertile upland acid brown earths & peaty podzols (often gleyed) (average pH c.4.0-4.5) Scenario 5B: Drained / improved peats / peaty gleys (moderately acid, average pH 5.0) in both upland (blanket bog) & lowland (raised bog) habitats Scenario 5C: Highly modified and drained fen peats (pH>6)</p>	<p>As per the existing NWS Framework (with Circular 05 /2018). Sessile oak component can be replaced with pedunculate oak.</p>

The above amendment to the planting mixtures applicable to the different NWS scenarios underlying both elements of the Native Woodland Scheme will be kept under review by the DAFM, particularly in relation to the 2021/2022 planting season.

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