

2023

AGROFORESTRY WITH ORGANICS



PREPARED BY
ACA





Agroforestry with Organics

ABOUT:

Agroforestry is the combination of agricultural and forestry production on the same piece of land which enables:

- More sustainable farming
- Improved animal welfare
- Increased biodiversity
- Mitigation of the negative effects of climate change
- Water protection
- Production of renewable energy
- Localised shelter
- Production of quality timber.
- Soil amelioration

There are 11 different Forest Types that can be planted by farmers under the new Forestry Programme.

Agroforestry is forest type 8 (FT8) and allows for the creation of;

- Silvopastoral systems (trees and grass)
- Silvoarable systems (trees and crops)
- Forest gardening systems (small-scale food forest pilot)

THE ESTABLISHMENT GRANT AND ANNUAL FOREST PREMIUM

The Establishment grant and annual forest premium for Agroforestry is detailed in the table below.

Forest Type	Planting Option	Description	Grant/ha (excluding fencing)	Annual premium for farmers per ha
8	Agroforestry	Silvopastoral systems	€8,555	€975 for 10 years
8	Agroforestry	Silvoarable systems	€6,000	€829 for 10 years
8	Agroforestry	Forest gardening	€6,000	€829 for 10 years



Suitable site type characteristics;



Free draining mineral soils



No requirement for additional drainage



Sheltered areas



200

Elevations below 200 meters



No requirement for herbicides or fertilisers

Acceptable tree species include;

- Oak
- Sycamore
- Cherry
- Alder
- Walnut
- Red Oak

Other species, including conifers can be considered on a site by site basis. It is acceptable to have between 15% and 40% fruit and/or nut species depending on the system. Individual trees are protected with tree guards which facilitates grazing by sheep, poultry or young calves. Silage and hay production is also permitted.



A minimum area of 0.5 ha and a stocking of 400 trees per hectare is required. Planting can be:

Singly
5m x 5m

In rows
Max distance between the rows is 10 m, trees within the rows no closer than 3 m

In Groups
20 to 40 trees at 2m x 2 m spacing

Land planted with FT8 Agroforestry can remain eligible for

- BISS – Basic Income Support for Sustainability Scheme
- CRISS – Complementary Redistributive Support for Sustainability Scheme

For 2023 agroforestry is allowed for N&P and GSR. It is not however allowed for Nitrates Derogation as the T&C's of that require 80% grassland as a minimum.

Once land is converted to agroforestry, it is classified as forest land and the provisions of forest legislation apply.



Photo credit: Irish Farmers Journal

**“AGROFORESTRY
ALLOWS FOR THE
LAND TO BE VERY
PRODUCTIVE
WHILE PROVIDING
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BENEFITS FOR THE
ORGANIC FARMING
SYSTEM.”**

ORGANIC FARMING SCHEME (OFS) AND FORESTRY

There is strong compatibility between the OFS and forestry. OFS parcels can be converted to forestry during the OFS contract without penalty. The Agroforestry scheme is one of the few schemes to seamlessly integrate with OFS.

Agroforestry interacts well with the key aspects of organic farming. The use of trees in an organic system has been seen to be extremely beneficial on many farms throughout Ireland. Trees improve animal health vastly and provide protection for both livestock and crops. A more diverse range of habitats improves biodiversity in local and larger ecosystems on the farm. This can lead to the increased performance and output of livestock and crops.



Land declared as Agroforestry can be eligible for;



- Agroforestry grants and premiums
- BISS
- CRISS
- Organic Payments at the dry stock rate

On the same land parcel.

An example of this is detailed in the following table;

Photo credit:Irishagroforestry

Farm Type	OFS Contract Year	Agroforestry Description	Organic Payment / Ha	Annual Agroforestry premium for farmers per Ha	Total €/Ha*
Dry stock	1-2	Silvopastoral systems	€300	€975 for 10 years	€1275
Tillage/ Hort	1-2	Silvoarable systems or Forest gardening	€300	€829 for 10 years	€1129
Dry stock	3-5	Silvopastoral systems	€250	€975 for 10 years	€1225
Tillage/ Hort	3-5	Silvoarable systems or Forest gardening	€250	€829 for 10 years	€1079

Table 2.

*CRISS and BISS payment value to be added depending on the value in each individual case. Establishment value also to be added, as per Table 1.

"GOVERNMENT HAS
COMMITTED €1.3 BILLION TO
IRISH FORESTRY FOR
2023 - 2027"



FORESTRY PROGRAMME 2023 - 2027

WHAT IS IT?

The Forestry Programme is the main vehicle that the Department uses to encourage the establishment and sustainable management of our forests. There are supports for the creation of new forests, and support for the management and replanting of existing forests.

AFFORESTATION (NEW PLANTING)

There are 11 different Forest Types that can be planted by farmers under the new Forestry Programme. The farmer premium duration has been increased to 20 years (15 years for non-farmer).

The Afforestation Grant Scheme (AGS) includes an establishment and fencing grant as well as an annual premium payment for 20 years.

AFFORESTATION GRANT SCHEME FOREST TYPES & FOREST PREMIUM RATES



	Forest Type (FT)	Annual Forestry Premium/Ha	Farmer premium Duration Years
FT1	Native Forests	€1,103	20
FT2	Forests for Water*	€1,142	20
FT3	Forests on Public Lands	N/A	N/A
FT4	NeighbourWoods**	€1,142	20
FT5	Emergent Forest	€350	20
FT6	Broadleaves (Oak/Beech)	€1,037	20
FT7	Other Broadleaves	€973	20

FT8	Agroforestry		
	Silvopastoral (Trees & animals)	€975	10
	Silvoarable (Trees & Crops)	€829	10
	Forest Gardening	€829	10
FT9	Seed Orchards	€1,142	20
FT10	Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF)	€912	20
FT11	Mixed Conifers	€863	20
FT12	Sitka spruce	€746	20

* Additional payment of €1,000 per ha will be paid to landowner on completion of planting

** Grant includes Trails, Seats & Signage Facilities payment



Agroforestry in rows








Agroforestry Group Planting



FT 8 Agroforestry

- **SILVOPASTORAL – TREES AND PASTURE**
- **SILVOARABLE – TREES AND TILLAGE**
- **SITE REQUIREMENTS**
- **MINIMUM STOCKING OF 400 TREES PER HECTARE**
- **PLANTING:**
 - **SINGLE (5 X 5 METER)**
 - **ROWS**
 - **GROUPS**
- **MINIMUM PLOT SIZE 0.5 HECTARE**
- **ACCEPTABLE SPECIES**
- **FOREST LAND**
- **FOREST GARDENING PILOT** 



Ireland's largest independent professional farm advisory network

For further information on Agroforestry with Organics or to enquire about your local ACA member, please contact us

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