

Planting Native Trees

Planting trees helps to reduce atmospheric carbon, supports wildlife and bolsters the traditional ecology of this island.



Image: Leaf of a Horse Chestnut
Source: Askaboutireland

Centuries of clearance for agriculture and over exploitation for timber have reduced Ireland's once extensive native woodlands to the remnants we see today.

A large proportion of the trees that have been planted in the last 100 years have been in commercial plantations and have been non-native trees, such as Norway Spruce and Sitka Spruce.

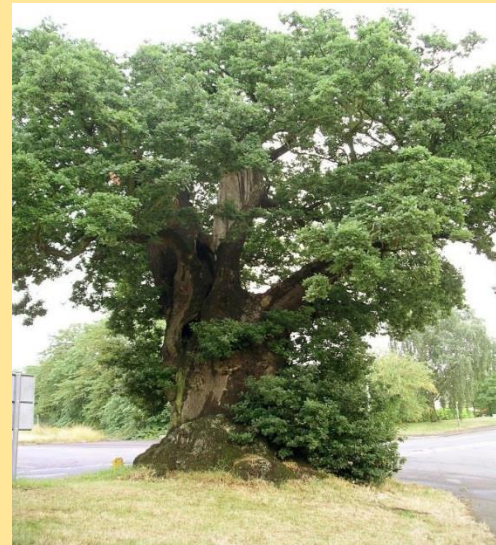


Image: Pedunculate Oak
Source: Wikimedia, Snowmanradio

Native trees - particularly deciduous trees - play an important part in our ecology, as they provide food and shelter to native species of insects, small mammals and birds.



Image: Sitka Spruce
Source: Sitka Spruce in Borgie Forest; Wikimedia Commons

Trees are effective carbon sinks, drawing in carbon from the atmosphere and storing it in the form of timber.

Native trees include Alder, Silver Birch, Sessile Oak, Pedunculate Oak, Mountain Ash, Wild Cherry, Goat Willow, Hazel and Scots Pine.

There is an option under the GLAS scheme to plant a Grove of Native Trees. Payment under GLAS can be received on up to 450 native trees, should this be chosen in the GLAS plan. Farmers who commit to this option qualify for a payment of €0.90 per tree for five years.

The plants must be in a single location and must include a minimum of two native species.

The native trees planted under GLAS, must be planted in rows, each row must be two meters apart, with one meter between each tree.



Image: Hazel Tree
Source: Wikimedia, H Zell CC BY-SA 3.0

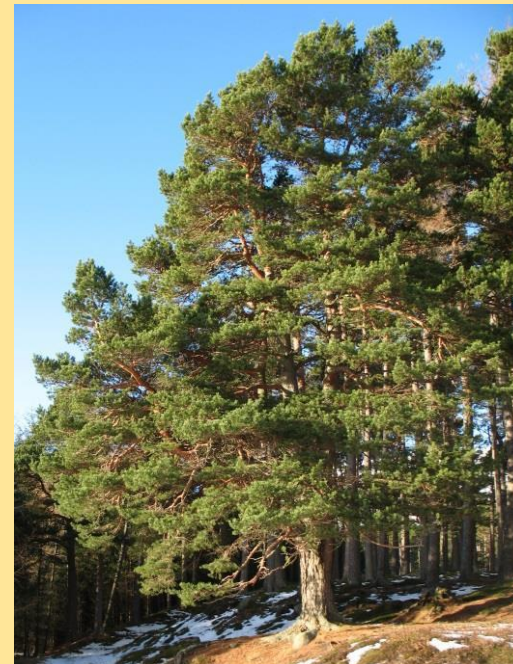


Image: Scots's Pine
Source: Wikimedia, CC BY-SA 3.0