

**For Immediate Release**

**Wood you believe - we get so much from trees  
RDS Launch the 2013 Irish Forestry Awards**

Tuesday, May 14 – Irish forests and woodlands not only provide important economic benefits to farmers but also deliver other important public benefits linked to climate change, biodiversity and the wider economic development of rural communities. With a prize fund of €7,000, the RDS Irish Forestry Awards highlight, celebrate and reward those who are who are at the forefront of the development of the sector and woodland and forestry owners from across Ireland are invited to take part in the annual Awards.

Mr Tom Cannon, RDS Committee of Agriculture Chairman, said “Forestry has a lot of good stories to tell and the RDS Irish Forestry Awards have been developed to match the needs of forestry and woodland management in the 21st Century. The Awards raise the profile and understanding of active management of woodlands and will help showcase best practice across a range of different woodland types.”

The three awards categories mean the competition is open to all. The Farm Forestry and Bio-Diverse Forestry/Woodlands Awards are based on the need to develop woodlands that can contribute to our economy and at the same time, support and create habitats for wildlife. These Awards are open to farmers and the winner in each category will receive €2,000, a perpetual trophy and an RDS silver medal.

The Community Woodlands Award is a new award that is being introduced in 2013 and is designed to celebrate initiatives providing a local amenity and the difference they make to local people. This Award is open to woodland owners or managers from the public and voluntary sectors and the winner of this award will receive a specially commissioned trophy.

Founded in 1731, the RDS continues to fulfil its commitment to furthering the broad economic and cultural development of Ireland. The RDS Irish Forestry Awards are part of the RDS Foundation Agriculture and Rural Affairs programme which aims to promote best practice and efficiency in farming to ensure farm household profitability and sustainability in Ireland.

The closing date for entries for 2013 is June 14. Judging will take place over the summer and the Awards will be presented in the RDS in October. Application forms are available on the RDS website: [www.rds.ie/agriculture](http://www.rds.ie/agriculture), via email at [agriculture@rds.ie](mailto:agriculture@rds.ie) and by calling the RDS Agriculture Foundation on 01 240 7215.

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Clonbur Wood Winner of the 2012 Bio-Diverse Forestry Award



The plantation of Colm Foy winner of the 2012 Farm Forestry Award