

# FORESTRY & TIMBER YEARBOOK 2013

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## LATE NEWS...LATE NEWS...LATE NEWS...

The following news was not available at the time of going to print.

### **BUDGET – FORESTRY ALLOCATION UNCHANGED**

Funding for forestry in Budget 2013 is to remain the same as the 2012 allocation. The allocation is set at €116 million for the forestry programme, which encompasses afforestation grants, premium payments and support schemes such as the Forest Roads Scheme. "This allocation would allow the premium rates to be maintained and provide funding for approximately 7,000 hectares of new planting which, on the basis of the planting figures in recent years, should accommodate current demand," said Shane McEntee, Minister of State with responsibility for forestry. "The level of funding is recognition of the ongoing efforts of people involved in the forest sector, including forest owners, producer groups, timber processors and exporters, to sustain employment, develop products and grow markets for wood and wood products," he said.

"We have made the case for the continued support for forestry and the Government's allocation is welcome news to the sector which plays a key role in the Irish economy," said Donal Whelan, Technical Director, ITGA.

### **NEW MEASURES TO CONTROL *CHALARA FRAXINEA***

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, announced a significant stepping up of its eradication measures based on the results of its ongoing *Chalara fraxinea*, ash dieback survey. The interim results announced on 12th December from the major winter survey currently being undertaken has confirmed further positive samples for the presence of *Chalara*. This brings the number of positive cases to 22, comprising 15 in young plantations, six in horticultural nurseries and one planted ornamentally in a garden. "To address the threat to our ash woodlands, there will be a major eradication programme on sites where there are ash trees from confirmed positive imported consignments," said Minister McEntee. "The Department will supervise the destruction and re-establishment of these sites. A replanting grant will be made available to the owners of private plantations which are part of the Department's current afforestation programme.