

CHAPTER 5

Grant and Premium Categories(GPCs) and Rates

5.1 General

To decide on the grant and premium rates applicable to any plantation the application area must comply with plantation rules 1 and 2 below. Only plots within each plantation which comply with one of the seven GPCs can be considered for grant aid.

For details of GPC in the Native Woodland schemes refer to the Native Woodland brochure available from the Forest Service.

5.2 Plantations

A proposed **plantation** for the purpose of the afforestation scheme is a **plot** (defined below) or number of plots on the same holding, within 500m of each other and contained on a single application planted in a single planting season. The rules below refer to the species composition that relate to grant and premium payments.

Only Plantations that comply with rules 1 and 2 are eligible for grant aid.

Plantation Rules

Rule 1 - 10% broadleaves

Plantations on improved /enclosed land must contain a minimum of 10% broadleaves, site permitting.

The broadleaves making up this 10% of area must comply with the minimum width criteria where the plantation area is 3 ha or greater.

For plantation areas less than 3 ha the 10% broadleaf content can consist of broadleaves planted in riparian zones, on road or boundary margins, or in group or intimate mixture within the conifer crop. If applicable, these broadleaves can be used as part of the 20% diverse content.

Rule 2 - 20% Diverse conifers

Where conifers constitute all or part of a plantation the conifers must contain a minimum of 20% diverse conifers (i.e. conifer species other than Sitka spruce or lodgepole pine).

In intimately mixed plots the diverse conifer species may be substituted by suitable broadleaves. However this substitution is in addition to the 10% broadleaved requirement outlined in Rule 1 in plantations greater than 3 ha.

Refer to examples of plantations which comply to rules 1 and 2 shown at the end of this chapter.

The Forest Biodiversity guidelines require that in plantations greater than 10 ha, areas of biodiversity enhancement (ABEs) should comprise 15 % of the area. Where plantations are less than 10 ha the open space element of ABEs should be designed in conjunction with neighbouring land use and may be reduced. For more information on ABEs refer to Chapter 7 and the Forest Service Forest Biodiversity guidelines.

5.3 Plots

Each plot within a plantation **must** conform with one of the following Grant/Premium Categories (GPCs) if it is to receive grant aid. Plots cannot be combined for premium purposes.

GPC 1 - Unenclosed land

(Applicable to unenclosed land)

All approved broadleaves and conifers planted on unenclosed land receive the unenclosed grant and premium rates.

In the interests of multi- functional forestry objectives, broadleaved rates of aid may be extended to unenclosed land on a case by case basis.

Note:

Unenclosed Land – Land which was never improved and enclosed by man-made boundaries for agricultural use other than extensive grazing.

Enclosed and Improved land- Land which was enclosed and improved for agricultural use by cultivation, manuring or both, and which is completely surrounded by man-made boundaries and usually shown as such in Ordnance Survey maps of scale 6 inches to 1 mile (1:10560). Definitions for enclosed/improved and unenclosed land are in Appendix 14.

GPC 2 - Sitka spruce/lodgepole pine

(Applicable to enclosed/improved land)

This plot is made up of Sitka spruce or lodgepole pine. For landscape purposes it may be appropriate to introduce a small number of other species into this plot. *(Note : This plot on its own as a plantation is not grant aided because it does not conform with plantation rules 1 and 2 above, but can be a component of a plantation that conforms with the plantation rules (see example 1 and 2))*

GPC 3 - 20% diverse mix

(Applicable to enclosed/improved land)

This plot is made up of an intimate mix of Sitka spruce or lodgepole pine and a suitable diverse conifer (normally Japanese larch or hybrid larch). The diverse conifer content must be at least 20%. This 20% mix can be made up of trees intimately mixed through the plantation, trees planted in groups through the plantation or a combination of both. The diverse conifer species in this intimate mix may be substituted by suitable broadleaves (but these broadleaves can not also be used to satisfy rule 1)

GPC 4 - Diverse

(Applicable to enclosed/improved land)

This plot is made up of acceptable conifer species other than Sitka spruce and lodgepole pine.

GPC 5 - Broadleaf (Non Oak/Beech)

(Applicable to enclosed/improved land)

This plot is made up of acceptable broadleaves other than oak and beech.

GPC 6 - Oak *(Applicable to enclosed/improved land)*
This plot is made up of pure oak and/or an oak/conifer mix. The only conifers acceptable for this mixture are Scots pine and European larch. (See section 9.10 on ‘Stocking and Spacing’ explaining the layout of an oak/conifer mix).

GPC 7 - Beech *(Applicable to enclosed/improved land)*
This plot is made up of pure beech and/or a beech/conifer mix. The only conifers acceptable for this mixture are Scots pine and European larch. (See section 9.10 on ‘Stocking and Spacing’ explaining the layout of a beech /conifer mix).

Areas of Biodiversity Enhancement (ABEs) eligibility for grant and premium is defined in Chapter 7.

5.4 Maximum Grant levels

Table 1. Maximum Grant levels

Grant/Premium Category (GPC)	1st installment Grant €/ha	2nd installment Grant €/ha	Total Grant €/ha
GPC 1 – Unenclosed	2031.58	698.36	2729.94
GPC 2 - Sitka spruce/lodgepole pine	2031.58	698.36	2729.94
GPC 3 - 20% Diverse mix	2158.55	698.36	2856.91
GPC 4 – Diverse	2412.50	761.84	3174.35
GPC 5 - Broadleaf (except oak & beech)	3809.21	1142.76	4951.98
GPC 6 – Oak	4825.00	1523.69	6348.69
GPC 7 – Beech	5078.95	1650.66	6729.61

All 1st installment grants are cost based. The rates shown above are the maximum amounts payable. The applicant must supply a full breakdown of costs involved for each operation, as detailed at Chapter 2. Second installment grants are paid 4 years after the initial works are completed subject to satisfactory establishment. (See Chapter 2, Application Process).

5.5 Premium levels

Table 2. Premium levels

Grant/Premium Category (GPC)	Farmer Premium (€/ha) (annual payment, 20 yrs)			Non-farmer Premium (€/ha) (annual payment 15yrs)
	Plantation area			
	< 6ha	>=6ha	>=12ha	
GPC 1 – Unenclosed	209.51	209.51	209.51	171.41
GPC 2 - Sitka spruce /lodgepole pine	336.48	349.18	361.88	
GPC 3 - 20% Diverse mix	391.08	403.78	416.47	
GPC 4 – Diverse	416.47	429.17	441.87	
GPC 5 - Broadleaf (except oak & beech)	441.87	454.57	467.26	184.11
GPC 6 – Oak	473.61	486.31	499.01	
GPC 7 – Beech	473.61	486.31	499.01	

Premium payments are made annually. The applicant is supplied with a Form 4 annually. The applicant fills in this form and returns it to the Forest Service and payment is made shortly afterwards. (See Chapter 2, Application Process).

Afforestation payments, premiums and the sale of the timber crop are exempt from income tax.

5.6 Examples of Plantation Payment Calculations

The following examples of proposed plantations demonstrate how the plantation and plot rules will apply to the paying of grants and premiums. The examples shown are based on the criteria that every plantation must comply with each of the two plantation rules and each plot within a plantation must conform to a Grant/Premium Category (GPC).

Example 1

Plot 1. Sitka spruce

Plot 2. Douglas Fir

Plot 3. Hybrid larch

Plot 4. Oak / EL

Plot No.	GPC	Area	Total Grant	Farmer Premium
1	GPC 2	4.2 ha	€11,466 (4.2 x 2,730)	€1,520 (4.2 x 362)
2	GPC 4	6.8 ha	€21,583 (6.8 x 3,174)	€3,006 (6.8 x 442)
3	GPC 4	4.0 ha	€12,696 (4.0 x 3,174)	€1,768 (4.0 x 442)
4	GPC 6	5.5 ha	€34,920 (5.5 x 6,349)	€2,745 (5.5 x 499)
			€80,665	€9,039

Site suitable for broadleaves

Example 2

<div>Plot 1. Sitka spruce</div> <div>Site suitable for broadleaves</div>	Plot No.	GPC	Area	Total Grant	Farmer Premium
	1	GPC 2	20.5 ha	€00.00	€00.00
	No grant or premium is payable on this plantation as the plantation does not comply with plantation rules 1 and 2.				

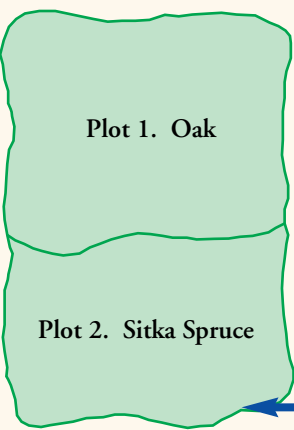
Example 3

<div>Plot 1. SS /JL (80:20)</div> <div>Plot 2. Hybrid larch</div> <div>Site <u>not</u> suitable for broadleaves</div>	Plot No.	GPC	Area	Total Grant	Farmer Premium
	1	GPC 3	11.0 ha	€31,427 (11.0 x 2,857)	€4,576 (11 x 416)
	2	GPC 4	9.5 ha	€30,153 (9.5 x 3,174)	€4,199 (9.5 x 442)
				€61,580	€8,775
Note plantation complies as site is not suitable for 10% broadleaves					

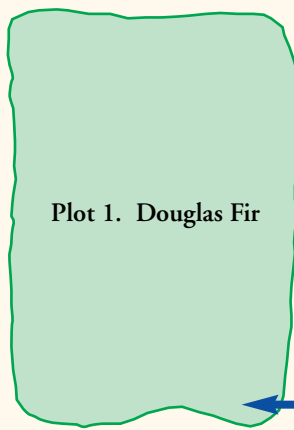
Example 4

<div>Plot 1. Oak / Beech (50:50)</div> <div>Plot 2. SS /Syc (50:50)</div> <div>Site suitable for broadleaves</div>	Plot No.	GPC	Area	Total Grant	Farmer Premium
	1	None	11.0 ha	€00.00	€00.00
	2	None	9.5 ha	€0.00	€00.00
This plantation does not qualify for grant aid as neither of the plots are approved mixtures and neither plot corresponds to a Grant Premium Category (GPC)					

Example 5

 Plot 1. Oak Plot 2. Sitka Spruce	Plot No.	GPC	Area	Total Grant	Farmer Premium
	1	GPC 6	11.0 ha	€00.00	€00.00
	2	GPC 2	9.5 ha	€0.00	€00.00
This plantation does not qualify for grant aid as it does not comply with plantation rule 2. This site would qualify for grant aid if 20% larch was introduced to the Sitka spruce plot.					

Example 6

 Plot 1. Douglas Fir	Plot No.	GPC	Area	Total Grant	Farmer Premium
	1	GPC 4	20.5 ha	€00.00	€00.00
No grant or premium is payable on this plantation as the plantation does not comply with plantation rule 1. This site requires the planting of 10% broadleaves to be grant aided. If the site was not suitable for broadleaves this site would be grant aided.					