



# WELCOME TO THE NATIONAL FORESTRY CONFERENCE



Society of Irish Foresters

## PROTECTING OUR TREES AND FORESTS

The importance of safeguarding Ireland's forests from pest, diseases and other damage

organised by

The Wood Marketing Federation and The Society of Irish Foresters and  
facilitated by the Irish Bioenergy Association (IrBEA)

Supported by

COFORD, The Programme for Competitive Forestry Research & Development  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND THE MARINE



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

# PROTECTING OUR TREES AND FORESTS

Introduction by Donal Magner on behalf of the Society of Irish Forester and the Wood Marketing Federation

- Agreed the title last November to mark the International Year of Plant Health
- Like Covid-19 forest diseases demonstrate that there are no effective borders – natural or political – that protect our forests.
- While Ireland still boasts the healthiest forests in Europe, there are warning signs – *P. ramorum*, kills larch species, and ash dieback, and other diseases, as well risks of windthrow, mammal and fire damage.

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Ash dieback

\Dermot Houlihan



# **The importance of safeguarding Ireland's forests from pest, diseases and other damage**

Despite the the devastation causes to ash and other species and future risks, trees are extremely resilient...



Elm – Garvagh Forest





Hiroshima 1945



Weeping willow, *Salix babylonica*  
450m from the atomic bomb hypocenter,  
Hanover Garden, Hiroshima





Eucalyptus at the site of Hiroshima Castle, Hiroshima, less than a half mile from hypocenter of the atomic bomb. The castle was destroyed.



# PROTECTING OUR TREES AND FORESTS

While nature can – and does – fight back, it needs a helping hand.

Today we plan to address the threats to Irish forest in three conference sessions:

- SESSION 1: THREATS TO IRELAND'S FORESTS
- SESSION 2: THREATS TO THE FORESTRY AND FOREST PRODUCTS SECTOR
- SESSION 3: PROTECTION, TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

# PROTECTING OUR TREES AND FORESTS

## SESSION 1: THREATS TO IRELAND'S FORESTS

09.55 Dr Richard O'Hanlon, Principal Plant Pathologist in Grassland and Plant Science Branch, Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI), Belfast.

Topic: *Actual and potential threats to forests throughout Ireland.*

10.15 Tom McDonald, Inspector, Forest Health, Forest Service.  
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Topic: *Safeguarding the forest.*

10.30 Short break (10 minutes)



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## SESSION 2: THREATS TO THE FORESTRY AND FOREST PRODUCTS SECTOR

10.40. Brian Murphy, CEO Balcas and Chairman Forest Industries Ireland to open Session 2.

Topic: *As the sawmiller sees it.*

11.00 Mechteld Schuller, ITGA and Director, Commercial Forestry Services.

Topic: *As the grower sees it.*

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## SESSION 3: PROTECTION, TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

11.20 Dr. Miguel Nemesio-Gorriz, Research Officer, Teagasc.

Topic: *New findings in ash research.*

11.40 Dr. Melanie Tuffen, Postdoctoral Researcher and Plant Health Science Advisor, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, UK.

Topic: *Pest risk analysis in protecting commercial forests.*

12.00 Open forum Q&A

12.30 Close of conference: Ken Bucke, President, Society of Irish Foresters.

# PROTECTING OUR TREES AND FORESTS

- During the conference there will be opportunities to ask question.
- These will be put to speakers at the end and if time allows we may be able to take questions after each session.
- We will feature presentations next week on the Wood Marketing Federation ([www.wood.ie](http://www.wood.ie)) and Society of Irish Foresters ([www.societyofirishforesters.ie](http://www.societyofirishforesters.ie)) websites. Also a hardcopy will be available at a future date – details on websites.



# Thanks to our speakers

- **Dr Richard O'Hanlon**
- **Tom McDonald**
- **Brian Murphy**
- **Mechteld Schuller**
- **Dr. Miguel Nemesio-Gorriz**
- **Dr. Melanie Tuffen**

**Thanks to**

**Teresa O'Brien, IrBEA**

**Pat O'Sullivan, SIF**



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Thanks to:

**Pippa Hackett, Minister of State**

with responsibility for Forestry, Land Use and Biodiversity

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

