

Planting Traditional Orchards

Objective:

To support biodiversity and help ensure the survival of traditional Irish apple varieties.

Background:

While apple trees have been grown in Ireland for many centuries, the native genetic pool has been significantly altered to incorporate a number of modern varieties. This measure endeavours to conserve the authenticity of traditional apple tree varieties while also sustaining their heritage, by only growing trees that were once common to Irish soils.

Site Suitability

- This action can only be selected on parcels with an Eligible hectare > 0.
- This action is available on CP and Non-CP LPIS parcels that will be claimed by the participant for the remainder of the ACRES contract.
- On CP Parcels, this action can only be selected on fields with the following scorecards assigned or submitted: Grassland and Rough Grazing.
- This action cannot be selected within an archaeological monument buffer.
- In Non-CP parcels this action is not available on areas that are SAC/SPAs, NHAs, pNHAs, Annex 1 Grasslands or Breeding Wader Hotspots.
- This action is not suitable on fields with more than 7 positive indicators on the scorecard.
- This action is not suitable for wet fields or peatland sites.
- Sites should be below 300m altitude.

Note 6: Where an investment has been grant aided under TAMS or any other National/EU funded Agri-environment or Capital investment Scheme from 01 January 2018, this cannot fulfil part of the requirement for this ACRES NPI action.

Fencing-Barbed Wire, Fencing- Permanent Electric or Fencing-Sheep Wire NPIs cannot be used to fulfil the fencing requirement of this ACRES NPI.

Requirements:

1. Create a new orchard of at least 0.05ha by planting 10 traditional fruit trees. Select at least 3 different varieties from Table 6.
2. The location of the orchard must be identified on the LPIS parcel selected and marked on the map submitted. Each orchard applied for is only eligible for one NPI payment and once claimed must be maintained for the remainder of the ACRES contract.
3. Trees should be supported with a suitable stake and secured with a suitable tie.
4. The orchard must be fenced off from livestock. The fencing must be stockproof, fit for purpose and be undertaken with permanent stakes and wire.
5. Grazing the orchard with sheep is permitted provided that no damage is caused to the trees. If damage is being caused by rabbits/hares, measures to prevent further damage must be taken by the erection of a rabbit-proof fence or tree guards.
6. Trees must be spaced at least 5 metres apart. Trees must not be planted in a single row.
7. All plants purchased for this action must have an accompanying plant passport and participants must ensure that they retain the plant passport(s) and receipts(s).

8. Pesticides or herbicides are not permitted except for the spot treatment of noxious and invasive weeds.
9. Grass and other competing vegetation must be controlled without herbicide, around the trees until they become established.
10. Failed or dead trees must be replaced during the next planting season.

Additional guidance:

- Apples should be grafted onto MM106 or MM111 rootstocks.
- Tying and staking must be monitored and adjusted when necessary to prevent the main stem twisting.
- To aid establishment, the root zone should be kept weed free (at least within a one-metre radius) for the remainder of the contract.
- The use of low nitrogen chemical or organic fertiliser is permitted at the time of planting.
- Apples require at least two compatible varieties for pollination purposes.
- Make a map showing where you planted each variety. It will be useful to know which tree is which in years to come.

Table 6: List of Heritage varieties for Planting Traditional Orchard

Aherne Beauty	Eight Square	Munster Tulip
An Cailin ban	Eves Apples of Ireland	Pêche Melba
Appletown Wonder	Farrell	Rawley's Seedling
April Queen	Finola Lee	Red Brandy
Ard Cairn Russet	Frank's Seedling	Reid's Seedling
Ballinora Pippin	Gibbon's Russet	Richardson
Ballyfatten	Gibby's Apple	Rose Hogan
Ballyvaughan Seedling	Glenstal Cooker	Ross Nonpareil
Bardsey Island	Golden Royal	Sam Young
Barnhill Pippin	Greasy Pippin	Scarlet Crofton
Beauty of Ballintaylor	Green Chisel	Sheep's Snout Red
Belvedere House	Harvest Eve (Culleton)	Sovereign
Blood of the Boyne	Honeyball	Strippy
Bloody Butcher	Horses Head	Sweet William
Brady	Irish Molly	Thompson's Apple
Brown Crofton	Irish Peach	Turkey Willouby
Buttermilk Russet	Irish Pitcher	Uncle John's Cooker
Cabbage Stalk	Keegan's Crab	Valentine
Cavan Rose	Kemp	White Crofton
Cavan Strawberry	Kerry Pippin	White Moss
Cavan Sugarcane	Kilkenny Pearmain	White Russet
CavanWine	Kiltoghert Blossom	Widow's Friend
Clearheart	Knights Templar	Yellow Clare
Councillor	Lady's Finger	Yellow Pitcher
Custard Scarlet	Leitrim Red	Crab Apples
Davy Apple	Leixlip	Cavan Sweet (Crab)
Dick Davies	Lough Tree of Wexford	Lough Key (Crab)
Dockney	Martins Seedling	Mc Griggors (Crab)
Ecklinville Seedling	Mrs Perry	